



Vice President Mike Pence speaks Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018, at the Hudson Institute in Washington. Pence said China was using its power in "more proactive and coercive ways to interfere in the domestic policies and politics of the United States."

Associated Press
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California man sues Vatican for names of abusers worldwide

By AMANDA LEE MYERS and NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California man who says he was sexually abused by a priest decades ago is suing the Vatican, seeking the release of the names of all offenders within the church worldwide.

Manny Vega, a 52-year-old former police officer and Marine, said Thursday that he's fighting for the truth for himself and other victims of sex abuse by Catholic priests.

"We were raped," Vega said. "It happened to me, it happened to my friends, and it happens to children all across the world, and it continues to happen at the hands of the Catholic church, whose inaction continues to damage children."

Jeffrey Lena, the Vatican's U.S. lawyer, declined to comment but has previously said similar lawsuits are attempts by some lawyers "to use the judicial process as a tool of media relations."

Vega's lawsuit, filed Wednesday in federal court in California, accuses the Vatican of placing the Rev. Fidencio Silva-Flores in a position of power at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard, west of Los Angeles, and says it should have known he posed a danger to children.

The lawsuit alleges that Sil-



Manuel Vega, who says he was sexually abused by a priest over a five-year period decades ago, talks about his lawsuit against the Vatican, seeking the names of all offenders within the church worldwide, at a news conference in Los Angeles Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

va-Flores sexually abused Vega between 1979 and 1984. Silva-Flores was charged with 25 counts of molestation in 2003, but the case was dismissed because of the amount of time that had passed.

Although Vega reached a settlement with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in 2007, that doesn't release the Vatican from responsibility, the lawsuit says.

"We've come to the sorrowful realization that the problem is at the top and with the Vatican, and thus has to be addressed at the

top for children across the globe to truly be safe," said Jeff Anderson, the attorney representing Vega and other victims of priest sex abuse for 35 years.

The lawsuit doesn't seek monetary damages, but rather an order for the Vatican to release the names of abusers in what Anderson said is more than 3,400 credible cases. It also seeks the names of anyone found guilty of sexual misconduct to be turned over to law enforcement.

For years, advocates for victims have been demand-

ing the Vatican release files about abusive priests. The Vatican in 2001 ordered dioceses around the world to send all their cases to Rome to be reviewed. The Vatican has refused to release the documents.

The lawsuit comes amid renewed outrage in the U.S. over sex abuse and decades of cover-up by the Catholic hierarchy. A Pennsylvania grand jury report detailing decades of abuse, as well as allegations that a prominent U.S. ex-cardinal was himself an abuser, have renewed a

crisis of confidence in the U.S. and Vatican leadership.

Priest sex abuse scandals first erupted in the United States and elsewhere more than 15 years ago.

Anderson and other lawyers have tried to sue the Holy See — the government of the Catholic Church — in U.S. courts before. But the Vatican has successfully prevented the litigation from reaching a verdict in part by arguing that it's immune as a foreign sovereign and that priests aren't employees of the Vatican. Anderson's last major effort alleging Vatican liability for the abuse of a priest was eventually dismissed in federal court in Oregon in 2013.

Anderson said the California lawsuit differs in several ways, including arguments that the Holy See is not immune from the litigation because of two exceptions in the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Still, he acknowledged there are hurdles.

"You're taking on a sovereign state, you're taking on the most powerful institution in western civilization ... You're taking on an institution that has never been successfully sued," Anderson said. "Because there's no precedent, anybody would look at this and say, 'It can't be done.' We look at it and say, 'It must be done.'"



This undated photo released by Davis County Sheriff's Office shows William Clyde Allen III.

Associated Press

Utah vet confessed to sending ricin envelopes, officials say

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah Navy veteran confessed to sending four envelopes containing the substance from which ricin is derived to President Donald Trump and members of his administration, authorities said in court documents. William Clyde Allen III, 39, made the confession while speaking with investigators after his arrest at his house in the small city of Logan, north of Salt Lake City, according to documents

filed Wednesday night in a Utah court. He told them he had purchased castor beans and sent the letters that had the beans in them. The documents filed to justify Allen's arrest did not state a motive. He was being held on a \$25,000 cash-only bond.

State investigators working with the FBI said the envelopes with ground castor beans were mailed last week to the president, FBI Director Christopher Wray,

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the Navy's top officer, Adm. John Richardson. Authorities have said the letters were intercepted and no one was injured. Castor beans can cause injury if swallowed, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Investigators say all four letters tested positive for ricin. No attorney has been listed for Allen. A federal complaint is expected to be filed Friday.

Vice President Pence accuses China of meddling in U.S.

By DEB RIECHMANN and
ZEKE MILLER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence charged Thursday that Russia's influence operations in America pale in comparison to the covert and overt activities China is taking to interfere in the U.S. midterm elections and counter President Donald Trump's tough trade policies against Beijing.

Pence laid out measures Beijing is employing to undermine the Trump administration. They include public steps such as targeting Chinese tariffs to industries in states that are crucial to Trump in the midterms as well as behind-the-scenes actions like coercing U.S. businesses to speak out against the Trump administration and intimidating scholars.

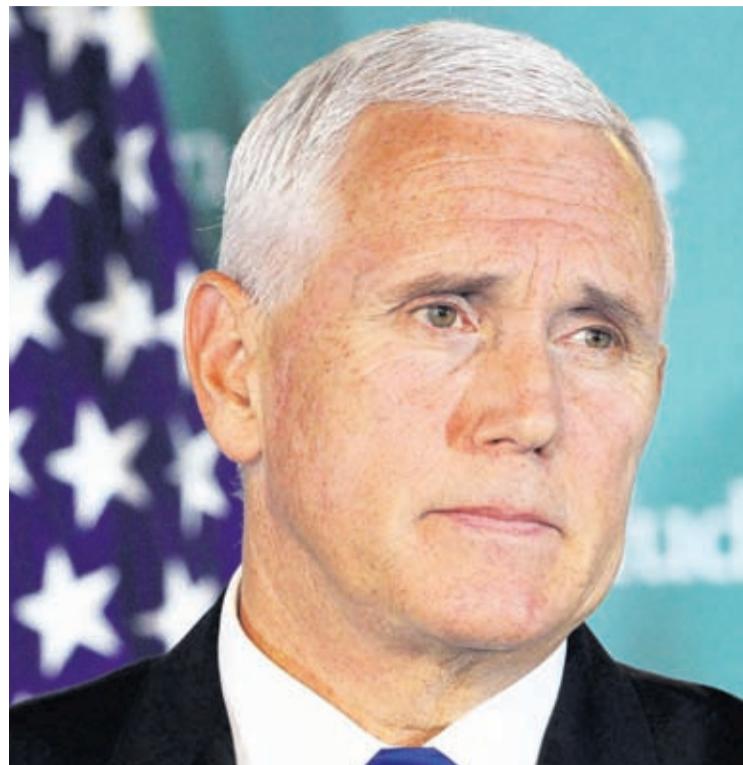
China has denied that it interferes in any countries' domestic affairs, but Pence said Beijing's actions add up to a simple message: "China wants a different American president."

"Beijing has mobilized covert actors, front groups and propaganda outlets to shift Americans' perception of Chinese policies," he said. "As a senior career member of our intelligence community recently told me just this week, what the Russians are doing pales in comparison to what China is doing across this country and the American people deserve to know."

Pence said China has responded to Trump's tough trade policies against Beijing with tariffs of its own designed to inflict maximum political damage.

"By one estimate, more than 80 percent of U.S. counties targeted by China voted for President Trump and I (sic) in 2016," Pence said during a speech delivered at the Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank. "Now, China wants to turn these voters against our administration."

He also noted a multi-page advertising supplement that was inserted last week in the Des Moines Register in Iowa, the home state of the U.S. ambassador to



Vice President Mike Pence speaks Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018, at the Hudson Institute in Washington.

Associated Press

China and a pivotal state in this year's elections and the 2020 presidential election. "The supplement, designed to look like news articles, cast our trade policies as reckless and harmful to low-wangs."

Pence's speech served as a follow-up of sorts to Trump's charge before the U.N. Security Council last month that China was meddling in U.S. elections to help Democrats.

After Trump's remark, intelligence and homeland security experts said they didn't know of any Chinese influence operations akin to Russian activities during the 2016 presidential election.

U.S. intelligence agencies assess that Russia interfered in 2016 to boost Trump over his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton through hacking and releasing sensitive documents and social media manipulation.

Experts say China is more known for conducting economic espionage. A recent intelligence report said China uses joint ventures to try to acquire technical know-how, seeks partnerships with U.S. government labs to learn about specific technology and information about running such facilities, and uses front companies to hide the hand of the Chinese government

and acquire technology under U.S. export controls. Pence offered only two examples related to the upcoming elections — the targeted tariffs and the advertising supplement — which did not rise to the level of the Russian effort to meddle in the 2016 election. But he pointed to a document Beijing circulated in June titled "Propaganda and Censorship Notice," which laid out a broader influence campaign, similar to Russia's ongoing disinformation campaign against the U.S.

The document stated that China must "strike accurately and carefully, splitting apart different domestic groups" in the United States, the vice president said.

Pence also said more U.S. companies should think twice before entering the Chinese market if it means turning over their intellectual property.

He urged Google to "immediately end development of the 'Dragonfly' app that will strengthen Communist Party censorship and compromise the privacy of Chinese customers." Google employees and others have protested the company's plan to build a search engine that would comply with Chinese censorship.

Pence said other examples of "proactive and coercive" ways that China is meddling in the U.S. include:

—"The Chinese Communist Party is rewarding or coercing American businesses, movie studios, universities, think tanks, scholars, journalists and local, state, and federal officials."

—Senior Chinese officials have tried to influence business leaders to condemn U.S. trade actions, "leveraging their desire to maintain their operations in China." Pence said in one recent example, China threatened to deny a business license for a major U.S. corporation "if it refused to speak out against our administration's policies."

—Beijing compelled Delta Airlines to publicly apologize for not calling Taiwan a "province of China" on its website, he said. It also pressured Marriott to fire a U.S. employee who liked a tweet about Tibet.

—Beijing's censors edit or outlaw U.S. movies that criticize China. The movie "Red Dawn" was digitally edited to make the villains

North Korean, not Chinese, Pence said.

—China provides money to U.S. universities, think tanks and scholars with the understanding that they will avoid ideas that the Communist Party finds offensive, Pence said. "Even scholars and groups who avoid Chinese funding are targeted by that country, as the Hudson Institute found out firsthand," he said. After the institute offered to host a speaker from Beijing that Chinese officials opposed, its website was hit with a cyberattack that originated from Shanghai, he said.

National security adviser John Bolton said much of what the U.S. knows about Chinese activities in the United States remains classified.

He said if more were declassified, it would help Americans better understand the scope of the Chinese actions to affect the election and its "broader effort to influence political opinion in this country through academic institutions, through think tanks, through intimidation of scholars." □

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Tricky time for GOP female senators facing Kavanaugh vote

By LAURIE KELLMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump era has, at times, been uncomfortable for Republican women, especially the six senators who will be asked to vote for Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court confirmation by week's end.

On Tuesday night, President Donald Trump ridiculed Christine Blasey Ford, who accuses Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her in high school — a claim Kavanaugh denies.

Recent polls show a majority of women think the Senate should not confirm Kavanaugh. But Republican women, like GOP men, are overwhelmingly sticking with the nominee.

A look at how it's playing out for female Republican senators:

THE CRITICAL TWO

In the Senate, the savage national debate over power and who to believe has above all been about the math. Two GOP votes against Kavanaugh's confirmation sink it if every Democrat votes no.



Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, walks on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018 in Washington, as reporters ask her questions.

Associated Press

That's put a pair of female Republican senators, Maine's Susan Collins and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski, under excruciating pressure. Neither has said how she will vote. Each wants to see the results of the FBI investigation.

Collins on Wednesday

called Trump's scoffing at Ford "just plain wrong." Added Murkowski a few hours later: "I thought the president's comments yesterday mocking Dr. Ford were wholly inappropriate and in my view unacceptable."

Neither senator is up for re-

election this year.

TWO ON THE BALLOT

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith was rushing to a vote Wednesday when a woman shouted at her, "Do you believe survivors?"

Hyde-Smith didn't answer. The Mississippi Republican, sworn in last April for a seat the GOP needs to keep, hopped on a Senate subway that sped her toward the Capitol. But she's left no doubt where she stands on Kavanaugh. In her first speech on the Senate floor, she announced that it was her "duty" to support Kavanaugh. She made time to appear at Trump's rally Tuesday night in Southaven, Mississippi.

Also on the ballot is Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska, who is campaigning for a second Senate term. Protesters shouted at her on the way in and out of a hearing Wednesday. Fischer has said she intends to support Kavanaugh, but added, "We're going to see what the investigation brings, and let's get the vote."

THE OTHER TWO

The two other Republican female senators say victims should be heard, but they want Kavanaugh confirmed. Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, said Ford's story

hasn't been corroborated and people should be presumed innocent until proved guilty. West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito — like Ford, a graduate of the Holton-Arms School — has said she supports Kavanaugh.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL
The Kavanaugh question followed some female Republicans on the campaign trail Wednesday.

Outside Phoenix, Rep. Martha McSally, a sexual assault survivor herself, said the issues raised by Ford are "pretty personal." She's running for a Senate seat in Arizona against Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema.

McSally said that, if no additional information emerges from the FBI review, she supports confirming Kavanaugh. "Based on the information we have, we're unable to corroborate with any other account what the allegations are," she said Wednesday. She added that she has sympathy for Ford and that people need to understand why sexual assault survivors stay quiet for years. Asked about Trump's mockery in Mississippi, McSally said, "I'd prefer that we all have some grace here."

POLLING

The bad news for Republicans: Recent polls show that a majority of women do not think Kavanaugh should be confirmed. The good news: Republicans, women and men, are overwhelmingly sticking by the nominee.

A Quinnipiac University poll conducted in the days after Ford and Kavanaugh testified showed that public opinion had started to tilt against Kavanaugh, with 48 percent of voters opposed to his confirmation and 42 percent in favor. A September Quinnipiac poll found a nearly even split in opinions on the confirmation. Women were far more likely than men in the poll to oppose Kavanaugh, 55 percent to 40 percent. But 84 percent of Republicans said Kavanaugh should be confirmed. □

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California makes people ask for straws, sodas with kid meals

By SOPHIA BOLLAG

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— If you want a straw with your drink or a soda with your child's meal at a California restaurant, you'll need to ask for them starting next year.

A law signed Thursday by Gov. Jerry Brown makes California the first state to bar full-service restaurants from automatically giving out single-use plastic straws. Another law he approved requires milk or water to be the default drink sold with kids' meals at fast-food and full-service restaurants.

Neither law is an outright ban on straws or sugary drinks in kids' meals. But some Republicans have called the measures government overreach by the heavily Democratic state. California restaurants that don't comply with the new straw law will get two warnings before being fined up to \$300 per year. It will apply only to full-service restaurants, not fast-food establishments.

Democratic lawmakers who support the policy call it a small step toward reducing ocean pollution.

Brown, who has made environmental issues a signature priority, pointed to the large amount of plastic dumped in oceans every year that can kill whales and fish and contaminate people's food and water supplies.

"Plastic has helped advance innovation in our society, but our infatuation with single-use convenience has led to disastrous consequences," Brown said in a statement. "Plastics, in all forms — straws, bottles, packaging, bags, etc. — are choking the planet." □

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Immigrants cheer ruling that lets them keep protected status

By PHILIP MARCELO, AMY TAXIN and JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — When Sudanese immigrant Hiwaida Elarabi learned the U.S. government was ending the temporary protected status that allowed her to live and work in the country legally for two decades, she sold off the restaurant that had been her life's dream.

Terrified to return to Sudan and unable to fathom a life without proper legal documents, the 55-year-old was one of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who got temporary relief after a federal judge blocked the Trump administration from moving ahead with its plans.

"This is a good day," Elarabi said Thursday. She now works for a university in Massachusetts after obtaining her master's degree in bio-informatics. "I was stressed I might also lose my position at the university as well as my legal status in this country."

Elarabi is one of some 300,000 immigrants from Su-



Associated Press

dan, El Salvador, Haiti and Nicaragua who for now will keep their temporary protected status, known as TPS, under the ruling. It's granted to citizens of countries ravaged by natural disasters or war and lets them live and work in the U.S.

until the situation improves back home. U.S. District Judge Edward Chen in San Francisco granted a request late Wednesday to block the administration's plans. He found there is evidence that "President Trump har-

bors an animus against non-white, non-European aliens which influenced his ... decision to end the TPS designation."

The ruling cited Trump's 2015 campaign speech in which he characterized Mexican immigrants as drug dealers and rapists, his call to bar Muslims from entering the United States and his vulgar reference to African countries during a meeting about immigration at the White House in January.

It is the latest in a series of court decisions that have slowed the Trump administration's effort to crack down on immigration. Federal courts also pushed back against the administration's travel ban on several mostly Muslim countries and the separation of immigrant parents and children at the U.S.-Mexico border. Justice Department spokesman Devin O'Malley said the ruling "usurps the role of the executive branch."

"The Justice Department completely rejects the notion that the White House or the Department of Homeland Security did anything improper," he said in a statement.

It wasn't immediately clear what the process would be to extend immigrants' temporary status. The issue is expected to be addressed in court later this month.

El Salvador has the largest number of immigrants with temporary status. In January, the Trump administration said it would end the program for the country in September 2019 because progress had been made to recover from a devastating 2001 earthquake.

In March, immigrant advocates sued on behalf of those with the status from El Salvador and from the three other countries who were also told their programs were ending.

Elarabi, who is one of the plaintiffs, said she holds out hope of owning a restaurant again someday after selling hers at a loss because of uncertainty about her status.

Fredy Ochoa, a 42-year-old Salvadoran in San Fran-

cisco, said he can't imagine returning to the country he left more than two decades ago as a teenager after a devastating civil war.

He said he works in construction, has two U.S.-born children and doesn't understand the government's concern with the program because he and others pay taxes and pass background checks to qualify.

"This is going to give us hope to continue in the fight for something better," Ochoa said of the ruling. "It is a huge relief."

Salvadoran paralegal Jose Palma has lived in the Boston area for two decades and has four U.S.-born children ranging from 17 years old to 2 months. If his temporary status ends, the 42-year-old said he would probably return to El Salvador with his three youngest children, leaving his eldest in the U.S. to attend college.

For now, he's focused on pushing U.S. lawmakers to pass a law allowing immigrants with temporary status to become legal permanent residents. He said the ruling fuels him and others to keep fighting.

"It's a light in the dark tunnel we're walking in now," he said.

Marleine Bastien, executive director of Family Action Network Movement, told reporters in Miami that she expects the federal government to appeal the ruling. She also noted that the decision, while "of great importance," is only temporary.

Rony Ponthieux, a Haitian immigrant who works as a hospital nurse, said he believes he and others like him deserve to stay in the country because they work hard, pay taxes and contribute to communities just like permanent residents and Americans.

He said he had not started making plans to leave the United States even though his temporary status had been set to expire in July 2019.

"I knew something was going to happen," Ponthieux said. "I believed in God." □

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Suspect in shooting of 7 officers bragged about gun skills

By JEFFREY COLLINS and MEG KINNARD

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP) — The Vietnam veteran and disbarred lawyer accused of shooting seven law enforcement officers, killing one, bragged online about his marksmanship and love for the "smell of gunpowder" in the years before the deadly standoff, records and social media posts unearthed Thursday showed. Frederick Hopkins lost his law license in the 1980s for mishandling money and faced several minor criminal charges in recent years, including disorderly conduct in 2014. It was around the time of his disbarment that he got serious about amateur target-shooting, according to the records and posts.

More details also emerged about the two-hour standoff in which authorities say Hopkins' gunfire prevented officers from rescuing comrades who lay bleeding on the ground. The slain officer, a 30-year veteran, was tearfully described as the "epitome of a community police officer" by his chief. Two wounded city officers were released from the hospital. A third officer was listed in serious but stable condition, the police chief said. He said he did not know the conditions of three wounded sheriff's deputies.

Hopkins is accused of opening fire Wednesday from his home in an affluent South Carolina neighborhood after deputies tried to carry out a search warrant. He also allegedly held children hostage inside, authorities said.

It was not clear exactly how the confrontation ended. Authorities would

say only that the gunman released the children as he was taken into custody, authorities said.

Hopkins was hospitalized with a head injury and unable to speak with officers, Columbia, South Carolina, television station WIS reported Thursday.

The warrant involved an accusation that a 27-year-old person at the home sexually assaulted a foster child who lives there, Florence County Chief Deputy Glenn Kirby said.

Back in 2016, the 74-year-old Hopkins posted photos on Facebook of guns set up for target practice, bragging that he was the state's 2011 "3-Gun Silhouette Champion." In a 2014 post, he said he celebrated his 70th birthday at a range by repeatedly firing his M14 rifle, which he "set up exactly like the one I used in Vietnam."

"I have been shooting competitively since 1984 and lovin' it. I just love the smell of gunpowder in the mornin's," the post said. His competitive shooting would have begun around the time he lost his law license over \$18,000 in wrongfully collected attorney fees. A court order shows that the state Supreme Court in 1984 allowed Hopkins to pay back the debt over time and surrender his license rather than complete a six-month jail term.

Court documents also show that he was injured in Vietnam and received disability payments. The filing does not elaborate on the injury.

During the standoff, the sheriff's armored personnel carrier was brought in to recover the wounded.

"Fire was being shot all over. The way this suspect was positioned, his view of fire was several hundred yards. So he had an advantage," Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone told reporters. Florence Police Chief Allen Heidler estimated Thursday that it took a half-hour to reach some of the wounded officers. □



A police officer directs traffic on Hoffmeyer Road near the Vintage Place neighborhood where three deputies and two city officers were shot Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, in Florence, S.C.

Associated Press



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EU chief says British EU-Soviet comparison unwise, insulting

By RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — After the insults, the ultimatums, the red lines and accusations, the European Union and the U.K. have less than two weeks to really get down to business ahead of a crucial summit on their divorce.

And — just maybe — there is still time and willingness to stave off the "hard" Brexit — where Britain leaves the bloc without an agreement in place on March 29, 2019 — that everyone fears.

"We should get down to business," EU Council President Donald Tusk said Thursday, realizing that a special Oct. 17 summit where major progress needs to be made to avoid the cliff-edge divorce is drawing precipitously close.

Tusk spoke Thursday after taking one last swipe at the



European Council President Donald Tusk, left, and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar arrive before their meeting at the European Council headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

nastiness of the past days, when British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said the EU shouldn't try to prevent a smooth Brexit because "it was the Soviet Union that stopped people leaving."

After months of unfruitful negotiations and increasingly testy encounters it had come to this — Britain's top diplomat comparing the EU to the dreaded Soviets.

Tusk, who as a Pole has lived much of his life under Soviet influence, was not amused. He said the Soviet jibe was "as unwise as it is insulting."

"The Soviet Union was

about prisons and gulags, borders and walls, violence against citizens and neighbors. The EU is about freedom and human rights, prosperity and peace. Life without fear," Tusk said, adding "I know what I am talking about."

As the EU and Britain head into the negotiating finale, both sides have stuck to their seemingly irreconcilable views.

After its departure from the bloc in March, Britain would like to remain part of the EU's seamless single market for goods but erect barriers for labor, capital and services. Tusk and the 27 other EU nations say they remain indivisible.

"No one can expect that, because of Brexit, the EU will give up its fundamental values and key interests," he said. □

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE pledge \$10B for Bahrain

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Bahrain said Thursday that Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates pledged \$10 billion to support the island kingdom, helping it avoid defaulting on loans as it tries to restructure its finances.

Bahrain, though the first Arab nation in the Persian Gulf to strike oil, had faced the specter of defaulting

on a \$750 million Islamic bond repayment due on Nov. 22. The International Monetary Fund in late May warned that Bahrain's public debt now represents 89 percent of its gross domestic product, while reserves are low.

As part of the bailout, Bahrain pledged in a statement Thursday night to eliminate the country's debt by 2022, aiming to restructure its finances to save \$2.1 billion annually. Those savings will

come in part through budget cuts, voluntary retirement of government employees and "streamlining the distribution of cash subsidies," the kingdom said. "Today's announcement demonstrates our commitment to putting the government's finances on a solid and sustainable footing," Bahrain's deputy prime minister, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, said in a statement.

Bahrain previously received

\$10 billion in aid pledges during its 2011 Arab Spring protests from members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a six-nation bloc of Gulf Arab states. Other aid has flowed into Bahrain from Saudi Arabia, which wants to shore up support of the island's Sunni monarchy as it continues a yearslong crackdown on dissent among its majority Shiite population.

However, that largess from its neighbors dwindled af-

ter oil prices crashed to \$30 a barrel in January 2016. Benchmark Brent crude since has rebounded to near \$85 a barrel, but Bahrain's neighbors similarly felt the pinch and remain cautious. While Bahrain pegs its dinar against the U.S. dollar, it recently has taken a beating in trading. The cost of insuring Bahrain's debt against default for five years has risen to the highest levels since records began in 2008. □



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Merkel, Netanyahu play down differences during Israel visit

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The leaders of Israel and Germany, countries that have built a strong alliance since the horrors of the Holocaust, put on a display of unity in Jerusalem on Thursday, even as the two states continue to grapple with gaping disagreements over Iran and the Palestinians.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was in Israel for two days of joint government consultations, the seventh such trip since Israel and Germany established the tradition a decade ago.

She and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared together at a press conference where they played down their differences. Netanyahu welcomed European efforts to address Iranian "aggression" in Europe, and Merkel agreed to prod the Palestinian leader over Israeli claims that he is to blame for the standstill in peace talks and a worsening situation in the Gaza Strip.

"We agree on most things, and we disagree on something. So what?" Netanyahu said. "We have a very strong alliance."

Despite gingerly addressing the gaps, the sides remain strongly divided over Europe's support for the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

Netanyahu says the deal, which curbed Iran's nuclear program, does not include enough safeguards to prevent the Islamic Republic from developing a nuclear weapons capa-



German Chancellor Angela Merkel visits the Hall of Names in the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, Israel, Thursday Oct. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

bility. Netanyahu lauded President Donald Trump for pulling out of the deal this year, which Merkel and other world leaders helped negotiate.

Israel has also criticized Europe for moving forward on the Iran deal even as Iran has been accused of terror plots in Europe.

Merkel, whose rapport with Netanyahu has been cool at times, maintains that Israel will be best served by keeping the Iranian nuclear deal intact, contradicting Netanyahu's demand that it be scrapped and stiff sanctions imposed instead. She earlier downplayed differences on Iran, saying the sides were "absolutely in agreement" on preventing

Iran from obtaining nuclear arms, specifying that the agreement itself was in dispute.

Merkel has also continued to champion the traditional approach to Middle East peacemaking, calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state and for Israel to refrain from taking unilateral steps, such as settlement construction, that could undermine peace prospects.

In contrast, Trump has largely held off from criticizing Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank, recognized Jerusalem as its capital and moved the U.S. Embassy there. He also has cut funding to the Palestinians and fully pinned the

blame for stalled Mideast peace talks on them.

But on Thursday the criticism was restrained, with Merkel again advocating for the establishment of a Palestinian state but agreeing to speak to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas — following Netanyahu's request — over charges that he is stymieing any new peace talks and plunging Gaza into greater crisis.

"I have promised the prime minister that in the aftermath of the German-Israeli consultations, I will call the Palestinian President (Mahmoud Abbas). I will inform him and also ask him some questions which also have to do with the situation in Gaza," she said. "I have

heard from the prime minister that we also need to encourage the Palestinian side that they come to the negotiating table and I will do this."

Germany has also been among the European countries calling on Israel to refrain from carrying out its plans to demolish a West Bank hamlet that Israel says was illegally built. On Thursday, however, she said the issue was "an Israeli decision" and strongly denied reports that she had threatened to call off the trip if the demolition went forward.

Israel has offered to resettle the 180 Bedouin Palestinian residents of the Khan al-Ahmar encampment a few miles (kilometers) away. But Palestinians and their European backers say the demolition is aimed at displacing Palestinians in favor of settlement expansion and would deal a devastating blow to hopes for Palestinian statehood.

Germany is Israel's largest trading partner in Europe and for the past few decades has been perhaps its staunchest supporter.

Israel was established three years after the end of World War II, and the German government has paid billions in reparations to Holocaust survivors and positioned itself as a leader in combatting anti-Semitism. Under Merkel, it has been perhaps Israel's strongest European ally.

Merkel began the second day of her trip with an emotional tour of the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum. □

West accuses Russian spy agency GRU of scores of attacks

By GREGORY KATZ

RAPHAEL SATTER

LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The United States and other Western nations leveled a torrent of new allegations against Moscow's secretive GRU military spy agency on Thursday, accusing its agents of hacking anti-doping agencies, plane crash investigations and a chemical weapons probe as well as launching cyber-attacks that rocked America's 2016 election and crippled Ukraine in 2017.

The roll-call of GRU malfeasance began at midnight in Britain, when British and Australian authorities accused the Russian agency of being behind the catastrophic cyberattack that caused billions in losses to Ukraine in June 2017 and a host of other hacks, including the Democratic Party email leaks and online cyber propaganda that sowed havoc before Americans voted in the 2016 presidential election. Hours later Thursday morning, Dutch defense officials



In this Thursday Oct. 4, 2018 image, four Russian officers of Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, GRU, are escorted to their flight after being expelled from the Netherlands on April 13, 2018, for allegedly trying to hack into the U.N. chemical watchdog OPCW's network.

Associated Press

broadcast photos and a timeline of GRU agents' botched attempt to break into the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons using Wi-Fi hacking equipment hidden in the back of a sedan. The

chemical weapons watchdog was investigating a Novichok nerve agent attack on a former GRU spy, Sergei Skripal, that Britain has blamed on the Russian government. Moscow has denied the charge.

The Dutch also accused the Russian agency of trying to hack into the investigation of the 2014 downing of a Malaysian Airlines flight over eastern Ukraine that killed all 298 people on board. A Dutch-led investigation team says it has strong evidence that the Buk missile which brought the plane down came from a Russia-based military unit. Russia has denied the charge.

Then came the U.S. government's turn, with the U.S. Justice Department charging seven Russian GRU intelligence officers — including the four nabbed in The Hague — of an international hacking rampage that targeted more than 250 athletes, a nuclear energy company and a Swiss chemical laboratory.

U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said the West has "a wide variety of responses" available.

"Basically, the Russians got caught with their equipment, people who were doing it, and they have got

defendants. They include four GRU agents expelled last spring from the Netherlands.

They were identified as: Aleksei Sergeyevich Morenets, 41; Evgenii Mikhaylovich Serebriakov, 37; Ivan Sergeyevich Yermakov, 32; Artem Andreyevich Malyshov, 30; and Dmitriy Sergeyevich Badin, 27; who were each assigned to Military Unit 26165, and Oleg Mikhaylovich Sotnikov, 46, and Alexey Valerevich Minin, 46, who were also GRU officers.

The U.S. indictment says the hacking was often conducted remotely.

If that wasn't successful, the hackers would conduct "on-site" or "close access" hacking operations, with trained GRU members traveling with sophisticated equipment to target their victims through Wi-Fi networks.

The GRU's alleged hacking attempts on the chemical watchdog agency based in The Hague, Netherlands, took place in April and were disrupted by authorities, Dutch Defense Minister Ank Bijleveld said Thursday. Four Russian intelligence officers were immediately expelled from the Netherlands, she said. Those were Minin, Sotnikov, Serebriakov and Morenets.

The British ambassador to the Netherlands said the men caught with spy gear outside OPCW were from the very same GRU section (Unit 26165) accused by American investigators of having broken into the Democratic National Committee's email system before the 2016 U.S. election.

On Thursday, Australian and British spies endorsed the American intelligence community's reported attribution of the catastrophic June 2017 cyberattack on Ukraine to the GRU. The malicious software outbreak briefly knocked out cash machines, gas stations, pharmacies and hospitals and, according to a secret White House assessment recently cited by Wired, dealt \$10 billion worth of damage worldwide. □

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Vietnam nominates Communist Party chief to become president

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam's ruling Communist Party has nominated its general secretary for the additional post of president, succeeding President Tran Dai Quang, who died last month, and ending a decades-long policy of separating top leadership positions.

The government said in a statement that members of the Party Central Committee unanimously agreed to nominate "comrade Nguyen Phu Trong" for the position.

If confirmed by the rubber-stamp National Assembly which convenes later this month, the 74-year-old Trong will be the first Vietnamese leader to hold the two positions since founding President Ho Chi Minh in the 1960s. Quang died last month after battling a viral illness for more than a year.



In this Jan. 25, 2018, file photo, Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong poses as he meets with U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis before their talks in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Associated Press

Economist Le Dang Doanh, a former government economic adviser, said it makes sense to merge the powerful position of party general secretary with the

largely ceremonial presidency, but cautioned that there should be a mechanism to control power.

"The question here is there needs to be a mechanism

to supervise power to avoid the abuse of power if the power is concentrated too much in an individual," he said Thursday.

Doanh said it's unclear whether the country's next leader will also hold both positions, and the party would decide based on the particular candidate. Speaking at a regular briefing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang said the move was made "in accordance with the constitution and meets the aspirations of voters and people."

The move is unlikely to change the country's course, according to Le Hong Hiep, a fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

"The merger is unlikely to generate any economic implications for Vietnam and its business environment as the country's eco-

nomic policies will remain unchanged," he wrote in an institute publication on Thursday. "In political terms, however, the concentrated power structure will make the Vietnamese political system more unitary and less pluralistic. While such a power structure may be more efficient under certain circumstances, it will also generate certain risks as the whole political system will now depend on its ability to choose the right leader as well as to check his power."

Trong, the party's former chief ideologue, was elected to the all-powerful Politburo in 1997, serving as the Communist Party chief of Hanoi and chairman of the National Assembly before being promoted to general secretary in 2011. He was re-elected to another five-year term in January 2016. □

South Koreans visiting North Korea for summit anniversary

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A South Korean government delegation arrived in North Korea on Thursday for a joint celebration of the anniversary of a 2007 summit and to possibly hold further peace talks.

South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said the visit is an opportunity to strengthen "reconciliation, cooperation and peace" between the rivals. Cho's group was greeted at Pyongyang's airport by Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North Korean agency that handles inter-Korean

affairs, who said the agreements produced by the series of inter-Korean summits — two during the 2000s and three in 2018 — have set the "standard for reunification." In addition to government officials, the South Korean delegation includes lawmakers, civic and religious leaders and the son of late South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, who participated in the 2007 summit with North Korea's then-leader Kim Jong Il, the father of current ruler Kim Jong Un. The visit comes as U.S. Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo prepares to make his fourth visit to Pyongyang on Sunday with the aim of setting up a second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un. Kim and Trump met in Singapore in June, where they issued vague aspirations for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without saying when and how it would occur. Follow-up talks between the countries stalled, with Pyongyang accusing Washington of making "unilateral and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization. That left Seoul lobby-

ing hard for a second summit between Trump and Kim to keep alive a positive atmosphere for nuclear diplomacy.

Pompeo said Wednesday he's optimistic he'll come away with a plan for a second summit between Trump and Kim and progress on a "pathway for denuclearization." However, he distanced himself from an earlier stated goal of getting North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons by the end of Trump's four-year term in January 2021. During his three-day

visit to Pyongyang, Cho plans to hold talks with Ri to discuss how to carry out the agreements made by Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in at a summit in Pyongyang last month. That was Kim and Moon's third meeting this year as they work to resolve the nuclear standoff following a torrid run of North Korean nuclear and missile tests. The South Korean delegates will also tour major North Korean facilities and attend a performance of the North's iconic mass games. □

DEA's Colombia post jarred by misconduct probes

By JIM MUSTIAN

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— New turmoil has roiled the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's high-profile office in Colombia, where at least three agents have left in recent months amid investigations into alleged misconduct, including accusations that one passed secrets to drug cartels and another used government resources to hire prostitutes. The DEA's top-ranking official in South America, who was brought in three years ago in the wake of a scandal involving agents participating in sex parties with prostitutes, is under investigation after the agency received an anonymous complaint saying he directed Colombian drivers working for the U.S. Embassy in Bogota "to procure sex workers," according to a copy of the complaint obtained by The Associated Press and one current and one former law enforcement official. The officials spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Richard Dobrich, a regional director who is retiring from the DEA next month to take a private sector job, said in a statement and interview with the AP that the complaint is without merit and he would have to be a "complete idiot" to have anything to do with prostitution given the office's history. He also denied his departure has anything to do with the accusation.

"There is nothing to this — zero," Dobrich said of the anonymous complaint, adding he wants another probe into how it got out. Dobrich said he believes



This image shows a page of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Regional Director Richard Dobrich's portfolio.

Associated Press

this "attempted assassination on my reputation" is a setup, perhaps by a disgruntled former DEA employee.

Dobrich said investigators from the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General interviewed him at his office in Colombia last month and seized his phone as a matter of routine. Dobrich said he was later told by an investigator that no misconduct was found, but neither the OIG nor the investigator named by Dobrich would comment on the status of the investigation.

DEA spokeswoman Mary Brandenberger did not respond to emailed questions about Dobrich's departure but wrote that the agency "takes very seriously any allegations of wrongdoing or

misconduct by our employees."

Prostitution is legal in Colombia, but Justice Department policy forbids DEA agents from engaging in such activity because it could lead them to be compromised by the very drug cartels they are pursuing.

Armando Ruiz, a retired Colombian police officer who has served as Dobrich's driver for three years, said he never saw his boss interact with prostitutes or do anything unbecoming. "Unfortunately, when you're in a position like his, there's a lot of people who act out of hatred," Ruiz said.

The scrutiny comes at an already fraught time for the DEA's Bogota office, which is critical to the U.S. efforts to control drug trafficking.

Cocaine production — and seizures — in Colombia surged to a record high last year, a subject likely to come up when President Donald Trump visits the country in November as part of his first trip to Latin America.

Federal authorities are also investigating Jose Irizarry, a former DEA agent assigned to Colombia who has been accused of passing intelligence to cartels, according to several law enforcement officials familiar with the matter. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation. BuzzFeed News originally reported the allegations against Irizarry in April.

Irizarry was hired by the DEA in the U.S. despite indications that he didn't answer truthfully a polygraph exam he took upon admission, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the case. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation into his alleged criminal activity is ongoing. Irizarry abruptly quit the DEA this year after his tour in Cartagena, Colombia, was curtailed and he was sent to the United States. Attempts by the AP to reach Irizarry by phone were not successful and it was not clear whether he has a lawyer.

The DEA also received an anonymous complaint in recent months that accused Dobrich's deputy, Jesse Garcia, of having a sexual relationship with a subordinate. That complaint, a copy of which was also obtained by the AP, said Dobrich had been made aware of the relationship — a claim Dobrich denies — and that "favoritism has created a low morale within the admin staff" in Bogota.

Garcia, who retired shortly after the complaint was filed, could not be reached for comment. Possible phone numbers for him in Bogota rang unanswered. Dobrich's tenure as the top executive in Colombia began in 2015, when he was

brought in to restore order after a blistering Inspector General's report found several DEA agents had participated in "sex parties" with prostitutes hired by Colombian cartels. That scandal prompted the suspension of several agents and the retirement of Michele Leonhart, the DEA's administrator at the time.

Prior to Bogota, Dobrich oversaw the DEA's military-style FAST teams that battled drug traffickers in Afghanistan and Latin America, and were criticized for a series of fatal shootings in Honduras in 2012, including one in the town of Ahuas that left four civilians dead. The DEA disbanded the Foreign-Deployed Advisory and Support Team last year following a joint State and Justice Department inspectors general probe that found the DEA — and Dobrich — misrepresented significant aspects of the shooting to Congress and government investigators.

The DEA and Dobrich have maintained for years that the FAST squad in question had been fired upon by drug traffickers in a passenger boat who had been trying to recover narcotics seized during the operation.

But video of the shooting strongly suggested to outside experts that the antidrug unit opened fire first, according to the IGs' report. The inspectors general found Dobrich's accounting of the shooting to be "unsupportable" based on their own review of the footage.

Dobrich, in his statement to the AP, likened the anonymous prostitution complaint to the insurgents he encountered serving with the FAST team in Afghanistan, where he was shot in the line of duty in 2010, earning a Purple Heart.

"I am used to being able to detect where enemy fire is coming from in order to protect myself and teammates," Dobrich said. "I am not accustomed to confronting the cowardice of anonymous and fictitious allegations." □

LOCAL



Don't Miss This Event! Queue for Q (QIV Q)

PALM BEACH — The Ritz-Carlton Aruba likes to be innovative. To bring something different to the table and that is literally the case with their event Q IV. The ingredients of this unique happening are: location – the lobby and outside terrace (re-styled in hip lounge), music – DJ Mista Fee placed on a high stage as in a live DJ concert, and best of all is the food – by celebrity chefs from Peru and the Executive Chef from The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. Dress in your Cosmo Chic or Cocktail outfit and indulge in this Culinary-Lounge-Dance experience. Good to know: Entrance is FREE and Prices are Special Sympathetic! Q is on from 7 to midnight and the after party is casino. On for tonight as well as Saturday.

Director of Banquets, Maurice Tax, explains the name of the event. "This concept is going to be a quarterly event here in the Ritz-Carlton where we want to create an experience that is luxurious, but of more affordable price level than you would expect. That is why it is a FREE entrance event." He continues that everybody is welcome, can have a look around and if she/he likes it by all means stay. "Call your friends and make it a night!" What will you find here? "Two celebrity chefs from Peru that are flown in, Christian Bravo and Alvaro Raffo, who have created an absolute amazing tapas menu, together with our Executive Chef Rafael Lopez-Aliaga. If you come in a group of 4 or 5 friends, you will have your table, pick some tapas and drinks and just enjoy the city-like vibe, DJ and super food." There is more as the best mixologists on the island make sure you have top drinks. "Aruba Trading, Arion, Pepia and Tropical Bottling are all helping us out. And in addition to that some real good soul house and maybe later deeper house." The quarterly event is a flexible one that can differ in location like Q-pool, Q-Beach, Q-Ballroom and also in concept like Q-lunch, Q-BBQ

ExQuisite

There will be two live cooking stations, one inside and one outside, and three bars as one will be outside. Executive Chef Lopez-Aliaga: "We three chefs are friends who share the passion for the art of cooking and we wanted to do something special where we can really connect with the guests. Each chef prepares four dishes." Chef Raffo: "There is a ceviche station with the classic ceviche, ceviche 'carretillo' meaning 'street-car' so it's with yellow chili and fried calamari, taco-ceviche with lobster and the tuna 'tiradito' like a carpaccio in Japanese style". It is about contemporary Peruvian cuisine in connection with an Aruban touch. "The next station is the 'causa' station, in basic its cold mashed potato but we put a lot of lime juice and chili's. We prepare the traditional one with chicken in the authentic way to taste the way of family dishes and the other one is with sweet potato combined with shrimp tempura and Peruvian pepper on top. Then a causa of a kind of corn cake with some scallops and onions. The Seco, a short rib with rice and beans, is a stew that makes your mouth melt as it is almost like a risotto but with a crispy



edge. Of course there are also the sweets like the churros, cheese cake and lime parfait. Basically in all food items is that there is always the classic one with the authentic taste.

Raffo has the cooking passion in his blood. His parents run a catering company called 'Charlotte', started by his mother's cakes and now a company of 43 operations with 700 employees. He opened a restaurant in Lime, called '73', where he is the executive chef and one of the best classic restaurants in the historical part of the city and he owns another up-scale restaurant.

"We like to connect with guests, we are friendly chefs", Bravo laughs. "This island amazes me, so beautiful and the friendliest people." Bravo is a celebrity in his country, as DJ, chef and he runs his own graphic design company. He is an ambassador for Peru and has a television programs. "I started trying to cook and messing around in the kitchen since I was five years old, so it was always my interest. The music and the designing I did because I only do what has my passion and those three have." He is a Pandora's box, the other two joke. One thing is for sure, these three chefs will rock senses all night long, so taste and talk at Q!

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Welcome back to Aruba, Joe, Dobrodošli natrag u Arubu



ORANJESTAD — Two years ago **Joe Čupurdija**, a former Lt. Col in the US Air Force, and his wife Marcia were visiting Aruba for the first time. That week Aruba Today published Chapter 7 of my book "An Aruban In Libya" and Joe sent me his reaction reading in part: "... I was stationed at Wheelus Air Base from July 1965 to December 1967. I was familiar with the Oil Companies Schools because my wife, at the time, was a substitute teacher at the Wheelus school".

As Chapter 5 of the book deals with the "The improbable connection of Wheelus with Aruba" and part of the improbable connection was the fact that my family, from Aruba, was evacuated from

Wheelus in a USAF C-130 Hercules, this was too much of a coincidence.

But, there was an even greater coincidence. Joe's email address contained a Yugoslav word that intrigued me. My book contains two chapters that deal with my Yugoslav friends in Tripoli. Sure enough, my suspicion was confirmed! Joe's parents had emigrated from Yugoslavia to the States. One was from Serbia, the other one was Croatian. Another coincidence, as my good friend Milica Marinčić was from Serbia and her husband Vladimir Cvek was from Croatia. Born in the United States, Joe is a member of the Serb National Federation (SNF) and like his fellow Serb Novak Djoković,

Joe also identifies himself with the Serbian Diaspora. He always carries with him a copy of the American SrboBran, the oldest and largest Serbian newspaper

in America and Canada, and the official organ of the SNF.

Joe became a subscriber to my articles. He would send me his comments regularly and we exchanged letters regularly.

In his first letter, Joe had written: "... our stay was most enjoyable and plan on a return visit...". This week Joe and his wife Marcia did return to Aruba and the two former contemporary Libya residents and phantom friends finally met each other personally in the Marriott's Sports Bar.

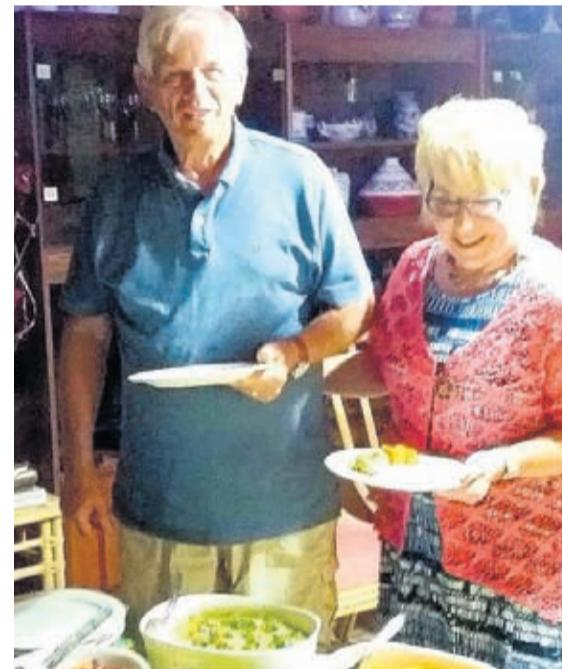
The coincidences however did not stop. Joe's first letter: "...Had a great time, in spite

of the tons of seaweed that Hurricane Matthew churned up...". This week it was Kirk that churned up the tons of seaweed.

Marcia and Joe are again having a great time and have praised the restaurants that they have visited, but their highest praise was for the home cooked Aruban dinner that Mrs. Milagro Harms had prepared for them. Taking pictures of the spread on the table, Marcia commented, "My friends will be jealous when they see this".

Welcome back to Aruba, Joe and Marcia. We look forward to your next visit to our Dushi Aruba.

By Clyde Harms □



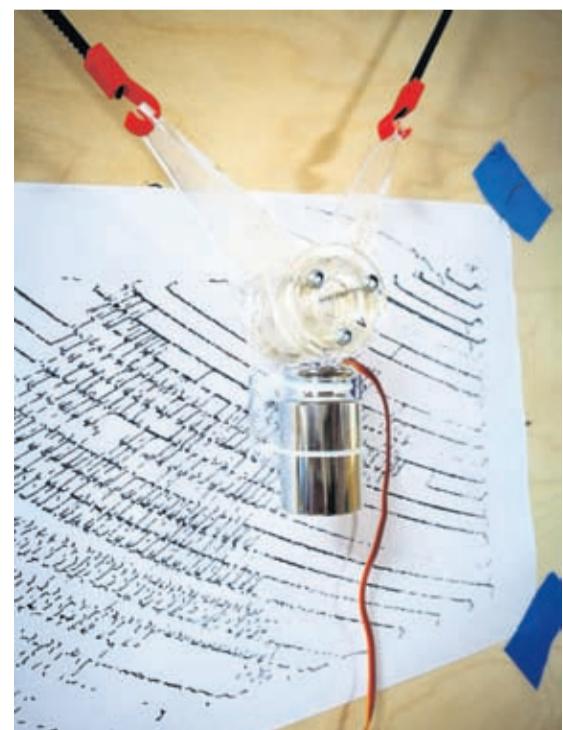
Mobile Makerspace

ORANJESTAD — Our world is changing rapidly. Technology will be a keynote in the future development for our island. Our children will be doing jobs that still doesn't exist today and our labor sector will need new abilities.

For this reason Futura Lab (Aruba's Government Innovation Lab and think tank) together with Metabolic Foundation and the library of Aruba decided to bring this innovative project to Aruba. Mobile Makerspace is an innovative and sustainable project. It is a bus equipped with the

latest technology such as 3D printers, computers for coding, Internet-Of-Things and robotics.

It is planned for this bus to go to each school in Aruba and give the children the opportunity to experiment in all these areas. This way today's kids will be prepared for future works that will be much more technical. Thanks to the cooperation of the Minister of Education, Armando Lampe, this dream came true. The project is being financed 75% by the European Union funds and 25% by the Government of Aruba. □



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Café the Plaza celebrates its 27th anniversary with an Oktoberfest



ORANJESTAD — It's Oktoberfest on Aruba on October 5th! You will see guys in Lederhosen and gals in Dirndl dresses at the German-style party at Café the Plaza. We can promise you a wonderful event that winks at the world-famous Oktoberfest in Munich.

Café the Plaza's 27th anniversary festivities will commence on Friday the 5th and they are all about beer and food. Expect roast pig, grilled ham, Apfelstrudel, Bratkartoffeln, Bratwurst and schnitzel and a beer

wagon and picnic tables. Special mugs will be for sale and entertainment starts at 5 pm with DJ Mr. Ed. When he finishes his stint it is time for Travel Sessions (from 7 to 10); DJ Mr. Ed will be back for more from 10 to 11 pm. Sponsors of the Oktoberfest are Balashi Beer and the Renaissance Marketplace.

The first Oktoberfest was held 208 years ago when Princess Theresia von Saksen-Hildburghausen and Lodewijk von Baiern got married. Then it was quite a small affair, but nowadays more than 5

million people flock to Munich for this beer-drenched event. So raise your Steins to 27 years of fun at Café the Plaza on October 5. Prosit! □



ARUBA ART FAIR 2018



SAN NICOLAAS — Aruba Art Fair is a yearly art festival where international artists and local artists create street art. The Aruba Art fair consists of different elements such as a Culinary Art Competition, Building Take Overs (Visual Art), Art TV Program, Art Magazine, School Art Contest, Sculpture Making and the 3-Day Art Fair in San Nicolas.

The 3-day fair in San Nicolas is where local and international artists perform live art and display their masterpieces. The fair is combined with other forms of art such as music, dance and other creative forms of expres-

sion. Experience over 100 artists & Artisans, 10 Muralists, over 60 performance artists, live paintings, cars, tattoo's and many more!

The very first edition of the Aruba Art Fair launched in Aruba's San Nicolas in September 2016. 10,000+ art lovers visited the fair to browse and buy 100s of original contemporary paintings, sculptures, photographs and prints in a different and friendly environment. In 2018 they will now welcome over 10,000 art enthusiasts to their art fair, where they can find a mix of local, national and international artists and gal-

leries showcasing a wide array of affordable artworks by established artists and rising stars. They hold many events throughout the year, but only 1 Aruba Art Fair. Each day of the 3-day event is filled with a creative plate of artist, performances, innovative talks and tours, hands-on workshops, kid's activities, live music and irresistible restaurants and bars; making them an ideal day out with family and friends. It's no wonder that since their beginning in 2016, over 20,000 people have visited Aruba Art Fair, taking home pieces of artwork to loving new homes.

OSCAR "TITO" BOLIVAR-FOUNDER & ORGANIZER
Oscar "Tito" Bolivar- Founder and Organizer

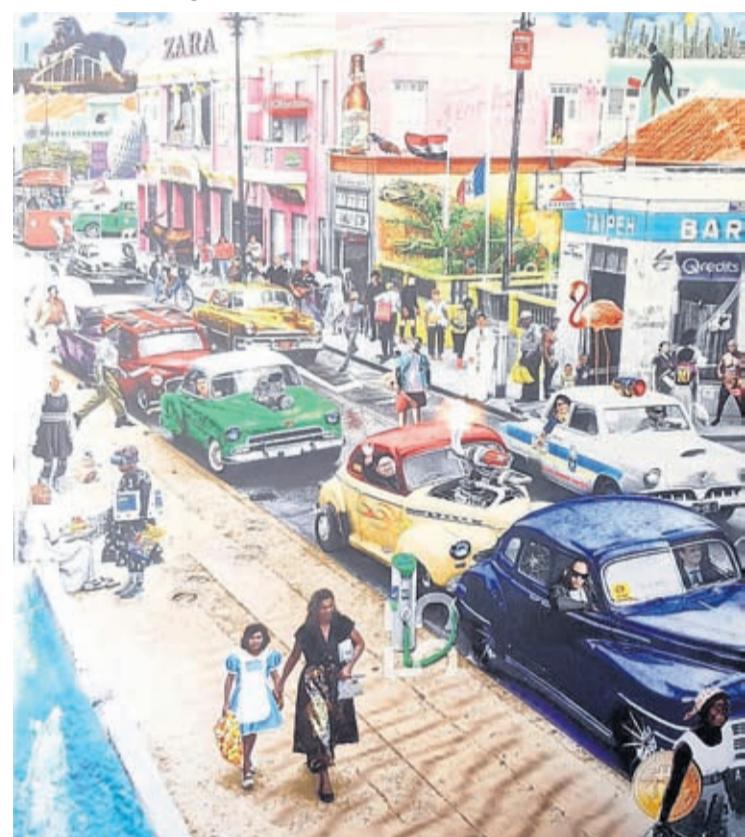
"It all started back in 2015 after a visit to Bogota, Colombia. After seeing how art was everywhere on the streets and connecting people, I went back to Aruba and the concept of the Aruba Art Fair was born.

In 2016 we started Artisa

showcasing works from a pool of over 150 relatively unknown artists. And with 15 muralist, art was brought to the dead streets of San Nicolas. Everyone loved the relaxed atmosphere in which they were free to take their time browsing the work. What remains constant is the emphasis on accessibility, education

and innovation, to ensure a fun day out surrounded by great art is had by all!"

Come and enjoy a weekend filled with artistic masterpieces, music, culture, food and so much more. More information on how to be part of it you will find on their website www.arubaartfair.com. □



Official launch of Short film "My Perspective" by MARIO GONSALVES

SAN NICOLAS — The launching of the short film "Otro Bista" (My Perspective) will take place during the 3rd edition of Aruba Art Fair this weekend. A short film that illustrates the authentic other side of Aruba

"Otro Bista" is a short film by Mario Gonsalves. This is a visual adventure inspired by showcasing the other side of our community. This is ideal for our actual and future visitors.

Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes - CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority stated that this film will let our visitors see what else Aruba has to offer, besides beaches, good weather and the hospitality of its people of Aruba "Otro Bista" is what more and more visitors want to experience while vacationing here.

The short film illustrates mu-

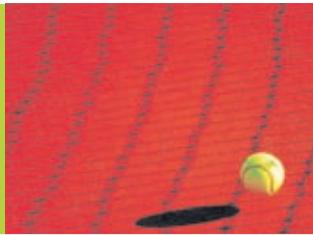
sic, domino games, fishing and exploring the north coast of the island are just a few activities that can be done. The film mainly focuses on the people, their culture and language.

Mario Gonsalves explains that the idea of this short film came from his experiences growing up, playing soccer on the streets with his cousins, being raised with a lot of discipline and appreciating his environment. He has always been fascinated by the visual arts, and that's how he decided to tell a story in a short film.

"Otro Bista" will be launched during the official opening of Aruba Art Fair 2018 on Friday October 5th 2018. The short film will be presented through the entire weekend at the Art Fair. □



SPORTS



Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald sacks Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins during the second half in an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"Stop crowning us!" 4-0 Rams shrug off hype, focus on 'Hawks

By GREG BEACHAM, AP Sports Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — The Los Angeles Rams realize they're a popular Super Bowl pick after their spectacular first quarter of the season. Pundits, fans and other teams seem to be lining up to praise them.

While they appreciate the respect, this is a profoundly weird experience for any Rams who were around even two years ago for the franchise's less-than-glorious return to LA after a decade of losing in St. Louis. This team doesn't have much experience in being the favorites for anything, and the Rams are wary of the role.

"I hate it," said Michael Brockers, who has been on the defensive line for seven years.

"I hate looking at 'SportsCenter' and they've got you at the top of the power rankings," Brockers added with a smile.

"It's just like, you know, stop crowning us! For me, I'm a humble guy."

Continued on Page 22

Bring on Boston



Yankees beat Athletics in AL Wild Card Game

New York Yankees' Luke Voit reacts after connecting for a two-run RBI triple against the Oakland Athletics during the sixth inning of the American League wild-card playoff baseball game, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press
Page 20

Report: Male sports fans have big interest in women's sports

By PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Male sports fans make up more than half of the group of people with an interest in women's sports, according to a report published Thursday by analysts Nielsen Sports.

The report found that 84 percent of general sports fans in eight key markets around the world, including the United States and Britain, have an interest in women's sports, and that 51 percent of those are male.

"This research not only illustrates the vast amount of people actively interested in women's sports today, but also shines a spotlight on the significant commercial opportunities on the horizon," said Lynsey Douglas, who led the team behind the 32-page report "The Rise of Women's Sports."

"From equal pay to record audiences and new media deals, women's sport is one of the fastest changing areas in the sports industry, and is more important now



In this Aug. 31, 2018, file photo, United States' Crystal Dunn, right, prepares to strike the ball during the second half of an international friendly soccer match in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

than ever before."

The landscape for women's team sports has changed dramatically over the past few years, creating the potential to increase the cost of broadcasting rights and the pay of the athletes themselves. While tennis and golf have led the way

for decades in the professionalization and commercialization of women's sports, their counterparts in team sports have lagged far behind despite some exceptions, such as with soccer in the United States. That's all changing though, particularly in soccer, with

leagues around the world being established. The Women's European Championship in 2017, for example, attracted a television audience of 150 million, according to Nielsen. "Building on this momentum, next year's Women's World Cup is set to engage

on a large scale and represents a great platform for brands to stand out," Douglas said.

Nielsen found that of those people aware of next year's eighth Women's World Cup in France, 34 percent have already shown an interest. That's not far off the 45 percent equivalent for this year's men's version in Russia, which was eventually won by France.

With promotional campaigns still to come, Douglas said there is a "clear chance" to engage potential fans ahead of the tournament, which will be broadcast around the world. Major broadcasters, such as the BBC in Britain, TF1 in France and Fox in the United States, will show extensive coverage of the competition.

Nielsen's research in the eight countries — Australia, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Spain and the United States — involved 1,000 interviews per market, split between men and women between the ages of 16 and 69. □

Naomi Osaka into China Open quarters, Zhang upsets Kerber

BEIJING (AP) — Naomi Osaka maintained her strong form since winning the U.S. Open by reaching the China Open quarterfinals by crushing Julia Goerges 6-1, 6-2 on Thursday.

Osaka made a slow start, saving a break point and enduring five deuces in the eight-minute first game. But she broke Goerges' serve in the next game and raced to 5-0.

Osaka won four consecutive points on Goerges' serve to open the second set and rolled on.

When asked why she's risen into the top 10 this year, Osaka said: "I think my biggest improvement is mental. "My game is more consistent, there are not so many unforced errors. I'm not sure how many I hit today, but sometimes last



Naomi Osaka of Japan hits a return shot while competing against Julia Goerges of Germany in their third round women's singles match in the China Open at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

year I was hitting a lot."

In the quarterfinals, Osaka will play Zhang Shuai, who came back from a set down to defeat third-ranked Angelique Kerber 6-1, 2-6, 6-0.

This is Osaka's second tournament since she defeated Serena Williams in the U.S. Open final on Sept. 8. In the first last week, she got to the Pan Pacific Open final in Tokyo. □

No. 1 Simona Halep has MRI exam that shows herniated disk

By The Associated Press

No. 1-ranked Simona Halep has a herniated disk in her back, putting the rest of her season in doubt. Halep wrote on Twitter on Tuesday that she had an MRI exam that revealed the injury.

She retired from her first-round match at the China Open on Sunday, citing a back problem that has been bothering her. The season-ending WTA Finals begin in Singapore on Oct. 21.

Halep has lost her past four matches, including at the U.S. Open. She became the first top-seeded woman to lose in the opening round in New York in the 50-year professional era. The Romanian, who turned

27 last week, is 46-10 with three titles in 2018. Halep won her first Grand Slam championship at the French Open in June, and was the runner-up at the Australian Open in January. □



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Ovechkin, champion Capitals rout Bruins 7-0 in season opener

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin and the Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals opened their title defense with a 7-0 thrashing of the Boston Bruins on Wednesday night.

After watching the franchise's first Stanley Cup banner ascend to the rafters, T.J. Oshie opened the scoring just 24 seconds in, and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored the first of his two goals 1 1/2 minutes later to get the rout off to a fast start. It was the fastest first two goals by a defending champion in a season opener in NHL history — and it was just the beginning.

By midway through the second period, the Capitals chased goalie Tuukka Rask with five goals on 19 shots and ignited chants of "Back-to-back! Back-to-back!" from the fired-up crowd. Braden Holtby stopped all 25 shots he faced to improve to 15-2 with four shutouts against the Bruins.

The emotional banner ceremony featured montages from the Capitals' playoff run and ensuing celebrations and a roar when Ovechkin carried the freshly engraved Cup onto the ice and skated a lap with it. Minutes after Ovechkin kissed the Cup and put it back in its box, he and his teammates blew away any concern about an emotional letdown and began making a statement that they want to win it back. In Todd Reirden's first game as coach, the Capitals beat the Bruins for the 13th consecutive time, this time

without Tom Wilson. Washington's top-line right winger began his 20-game suspension for another illegal check to the head of an opponent in a preseason game.

Ovechkin scored one of four power-play goals, Kuznetsov scored his second on the power play and John Carlson beat Boston backup Jaroslav Halak on a 5-on-3 advantage.

Newcomer Nic Dowd joined the fun with a spinning back-hander, and Cup-clinching goal-scorer Lars Eller added the exclamation point with the seventh of the night.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, CANADIENS 2, OT

TORONTO (AP) — Auston Matthews scored his second goal of the game in overtime, John Tavares scored his first goal for Toronto and the Maple Leafs beat Montreal in the opener for both teams.

Matthews took a feed from Patrick Marleau and beat goalie Carey Price 1:01 into the extra period.

Frederik Andersen stopped 34 shots, and Nazem Kadri had two assists for the Maple Leafs.

Artturi Lehkonen and Andrew Shaw scored for Montreal, and Price made 23 saves. Max Domi, the son of former Leafs tough guy Tie Domi, had two assists in his first game for the Canadiens.

Montreal's Jesperi Kotkaniemi, the first NHL player born in the 2000s, picked up an assist. The Finn, who turned 18 in July, also became the second-youngest player in



Washington Capitals players watch the Stanley Cup championship banner during a banner-raising ceremony before the team's NHL hockey game against the Boston Bruins, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

Canadiens' history to score a point.

DUCKS 5, SHARKS 2
SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) —

John Gibson made 31 saves, Brandon Montour scored the tiebreaking goal with 11:58 to play and the Anaheim Ducks spoiled Erik Karlsson's San Jose debut.

Rickard Rakell added a goal and two assists, Max Comtois scored on his opening shift in the NHL and Adam Henrique also had a goal in the first game for the Ducks since getting swept in the first round by San Jose last spring. Jakob

Silfverberg had three assists and Carter Rowney scored an empty-net goal for Anaheim.

Evander Kane and Tomas Hertl scored for the Sharks but Martin Jones allowed four goals on the first 13 shots he faced to take the loss. Jones finished with 10 saves.

CANUCKS 5, FLAMES 2
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Rookie Elias Pettersson scored on his first shot in his first NHL game, and Vancouver beat Calgary.

Nikolay Goldobin, Brendan Leipsic, Jake Virtanen and

Tyler Motte also scored for Vancouver. Jacob Markstrom stopped 33 shots.

Matthew Tkachuk and Sean Monahan had goals for the Flames, and Mike Smith finished with 18 saves. Pettersson opened the scoring with 6:12 left in the first period, picking up the puck in the neutral zone, springing into the Calgary end with teammate Derrick Pouliot on a 2-on-1. Pettersson kept the puck and fired a wrist shot into the top of the net.

The goal brought chants of "Petter-sson" from the crowd. □

Yankees rout A's 7-2 in wild-card game

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Aaron Judge got the party started with a two-run homer nine pitches in. By the time Giancarlo Stanton capped the mauling with monstrous drive in his postseason debut, New York Yankees fans already were looking ahead.

"We want Boston!" they chanted.

Coming up next.

"It's going to be intense," CC Sabathia predicted after the Yankees pounded the Oakland Athletics 7-2 on Wednesday night to win their second straight AL wild-card game.

New York will take a train to Boston for a best-of-five Division Series starting Friday night, a matchup of 100-win heavyweights.

"I think they're ready and relish the opportunity to go up against the game's best this year," Yankees rookie manager Aaron Boone said of his players.

Boone remains a dirty word among the Fenway Park faithful. His 11th-inning homer in Game 7 of the 2003

AL Championship Series beat the Red Sox. A year later Boston overcame the Yankees and became the first major league team to bounce back from a 3-0 postseason deficit. The Red Sox went on to win their first World Series since 1918, but Boone's drive off Tim Wakefield has not been forgotten or forgiven.

Boston went 10-9 against the Yankees this year and set a club record with 108 wins. New York became the first team since the 2001 A's to reach triple digits in wins and fail to finish first.

"We've just got to do our homework and come out swinging," said Luke Voit, who broke open the game with a two-run triple in a four-run sixth.

Luis Severino atoned for last year's flop in the wild-card game against Minnesota, pitching no-hit shutout ball into the fifth. Dellin Betances entered with two on and got six straight outs as part of a five-hitter, and the Yankees extended their home postseason winning streak to seven.

Severino let out a primal



New York Yankees starting pitcher Luis Severino reacts after striking out Oakland Athletics' Marcus Semien with the bases loaded to end the top of the fourth inning of the American League wild-card playoff baseball game, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

scream after escaping a bases-loaded jam in the fourth with a 99.6 fastball — his fastest pitch of the

night — to strike out Marcus Semien.

Yankees fans fretted about an all-or-nothing knockout match, thinking back to last year when Severino fell behind Minnesota 3-0 just 10 pitches in. New York rallied for an 8-4 win against the Twins, but the memory remained raw.

Severino retired his first three batters in order on 10 pitches

"I think the first inning was huge for me, after all the stuff that people say on social media, all of that stuff," he explained.

Andrew McCutchen walked leading off the bottom half against reliever-turned starter Liam Hendricks, and Judge hit a drive over the left-field scoreboard, joining Reggie Jackson as the only Yankees with four home runs in their first seven postseason home games.

"I was already excited from the national anthem on," said Judge, who hit his second homer since returning in mid-September after missing seven weeks with a broken right wrist.

Short on options, A's man-

ager Bob Melvin opted for baseball's latest fad: starting a reliever. Hendriks (the loser) had not allowed a home run since June 24, the night before he was cut from the major league roster.

"Got into some bad counts and they made me pay," Hendriks said.

Voit's two-run triple missed a home run by inches. Stanton added a 443-foot drive off closer Blake Treinen in the eighth that landed in left field's second deck, completing a power show by the team that set a major league record for most home runs in a season. Stanton's drive left the bat at 117.4 mph and Judge's 116.1 mph, the hardest-hit postseason home runs since measuring began in 2015.

A sellout crowd enjoyed one of those boisterous Bronx celebrations that used to be an October staple.

"Early in the game they're going to be loud. It's our job to try to take them out of it," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "This is a tough ballpark to play in."

Oakland has lost eight straight winner-take-all postseason games since beating Willie Mays and the New York Mets in Game 7 of the 1973 World Series, and dropped all four of their postseason matchups against the Yankees.

"It's pretty hard but I'm not disappointed at all," said big league home run champion Kris Davis, who hit a two-run homer off Zach Britton in the eighth. "I think we showed some people we can do some things and I think next year, we're a little bit more of a threat."

Severino was 14-2 at the All-Star break this year but slumped badly in the second half, and Boone's decision to start the 24-year-old right-hander against the A's instead of J.A. Happ or Masahiro Tanaka was intensely debated — the type of argument Boone used to enjoy as a television analyst who broadcast last year's wild-card game. □

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MLB attendance down 4 percent as 6 ballparks set lows

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cincinnati catcher Tucker Barnhart could hear the difference at Great American Ball Park, one of six major league stadiums that set record lows for attendance this year.

"It's pretty hard to not notice it when you can hear the light towers buzzing," he said.

Major League Baseball's average attendance dropped 4 percent to 28,830, its lowest since 2003 after 14 consecutive seasons topping 30,000.

Baltimore's Camden Yards, Chicago's Guaranteed Rate Field, Minnesota's Target Field, Miami's Marlins Park and Pittsburgh's PNC Park also drew their smallest attendance since opening as part of a ballpark boom. In a season of unusually cold and wet weather, 17 of the 30 teams experienced drops.

Major League Baseball attributed the decrease primarily "connected to the historically bad weather we faced back in the spring" and noted the percentage drop decreased markedly after May 1.

Total attendance fell to 69.63 million from 72.67 million last year and a high of 79.5 million in 2007. The average is down 14.4 percent from its high of 32,785 in 2007, the last year before the Great Recession. It had not been this low since 28,013 in 2003.

"I think it is a concerning number, and I think a lot of factors go into it in today's climate, particularly when fans have as many options as they have in where they're spending their entertainment dollar," players' association head Tony Clark said.



In this Sept. 30, 2018, file photo, empty seats are shown at Safeco Field as Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Roenis Elias throws against the Texas Rangers during the first inning of a baseball game, in Seattle.

Associated Press

On-field success and attendance usually are linked.

"When teams rebuild, it always has an attendance effect," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said.

The NL champion Los Angeles Dodgers set a club record, Colorado drew its biggest crowds since 2001, World Series champion Houston since 2007 and the New York Yankees since 2012 — including a new Yankee Stadium record 23 sellouts.

But advance sales were down for several teams that jettisoned veterans and went with youth. Under the five-year labor contract agreed to before the 2017 season, limits were placed on spending for international amateurs following restrictions that began in 2012 on amateurs

who reside in the U.S. More cost certainty for controllable players may have encouraged more teams to rebuild at the same time.

"If our system encourages teams to be either all in or all out, there are some things worth discussing and we look forward to having those conversations," Clark said.

The Orioles (47-115), White Sox (62-100), Marlins (63-98) and Reds (67-95) had among the poorest records, while the Twins had a losing season at 78-84.

"People have a lot of decisions to make in their life about what they're doing with their commitments and money and what have you. It's up to us to give them something they want to embrace," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter

said. "Attendance is down. It's our fault, not theirs."

But the Pirates contended until late in the season and finished 82-79, yet fell by more than 450,000 to 1.65 million, the smallest for the franchise since 1996 at Three Rivers Stadium. Perhaps the cause was a lingering effect from trading away stars Andrew McCutchen and Gerrit Cole the previous offseason.

Cleveland fell by 120,000 even though the Indians won their third straight AL Central title.

Despite a 90-72 record and third-place finish in the AL East, Tampa Bay was 29th in the major leagues at 1.15 million. The Rays and Oakland Athletics are the last two teams seeking new ballparks.

"I know it's a hassle get-

ting to the ballpark. I get it. Even if we'd have won 100 games, who knows if it would have been different?" Rays outfielder Kevin Kiermaier said.

In its first season under new chief executive officer Derek Jeter, the Marlins drew 811,000 after trading star slugger Giancarlo Stanton to the New York Yankees, the low for a franchise that started in 1993 and the fewest home fans for any major league team since the 2004 Montreal Expos in their last season before moving to Washington, D.C. The Marlins said they changed their counting method to include only tickets sold. Still, the vast amount of empty seats is unsustainable.

"That's something we need to improve," Jeter said. "Where we're starting from, the only way we can go is up."

Bad weather played a factor in the falloff, especially early in the season. The average of 26,867 through April was down 9.4 percent from 29,654 through the first full month in 2017. There were 54 postponements, the most since 1989, and 26 of them were higher-drawing weekend games. Manfred said 35 games in April had a temperature of 40 degrees or less and a quarter of the games were played in 50 degrees or under.

"We got ourselves in a hole that I've never seen since I've been in baseball," said Manfred, who first got involved in the sport as an outside counsel in 1987. Still, he knows changes in the sport and the audience have to be examined constantly.

"All live entertainment is challenging because of changing habits," Manfred said. □

4 rookie QBs starting the same week is NFL rarity

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

Four rookie quarterbacks started in the same week for only the second time in NFL history in Week 4. None of them earned a win. Cleveland's Baker Mayfield and Arizona's Josh Rosen came close. Both of their teams lost by a field goal. Buffalo's Josh Allen had the worst game of the group in a shutout loss. Sam Darnold and the Jets didn't have a chance against Jacksonville.

Mayfield was 21 of 41 for 295 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions in a 45-42 overtime loss at Oakland. He came off the bench to lead the Browns to a rare win the previous game against the Jets.

Rosen also made his first start, going 15 of 27 for 180 yards and one TD in a 20-17 loss to Seattle.

Allen was 16 of 33 for 151 yards and two picks in a 22-0 loss to Green Bay. He led the Bills to a stunning upset at Minnesota a week earlier.

RAMS
Continued from Page 17
I don't want to be crowned. I always want the attitude of being the hungry dog, being the underdog, because you almost seem to be more hungrier when you play like that."

Nobody with any experience in the Rams' locker room has forgotten that this franchise is just one year removed from streaks of 13 consecutive losing seasons and 12 consecutive non-playoff seasons. Humility is relatively easy with that struggle still on their minds, according to the players and coaches who went through it.

Jared Goff doesn't even turn 24 until next Sunday, but he remembers going 0-7 as a rookie starter for the hapless Rams of 2016. "I don't think we're getting any bit caught up in anything," said Goff, who's second in the NFL with 1,406 yards passing after his outstanding effort against Minnesota. "I think a lot of people on this team, being



Buffalo Bills' Josh Allen throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

Darnold was 17 of 34 for 167 yards and one TD in a 31-12 loss to the Jaguars. Baltimore's Lamar Jackson got four carries in a win

against the Steelers so all five quarterbacks picked in the first round played the same week. When Mayfield and Rosen made their

debuts in Week 3, it was the first time five first-round quarterbacks played within the first three games of a season.

Here's a look inside more numbers going into Week 5:

BREEZING PAST PEYTON: Drew Brees needs 201 yards passing yards when New Orleans hosts the Redskins on Monday to surpass Peyton Manning (71,940) and Brett Favre (71,838) for most passing yards in NFL history. Brees (496) and Brady (497) are close to joining Manning and Favre as the only members of the 500 touchdown passes club.

GETTING OFFENSIVE: The totals for points (3,030), touchdowns (344) and touchdown passes (228) are all the highest through the first four weeks of a season.

PASSING LEAGUE: The 12 individual performances of at least 400 yards is the most through the first four weeks. The five individual 400-yard passing performances in Week 4 were the

most ever in a single week.

PARITY: The average margin of victory has been 9.9 points and 38 games have been decided by eight points or fewer, the most ever through four weeks. Six games in Week 4 had the winning points scored in the final 10 seconds of the fourth quarter or overtime.

FLYING HIGH: The Rams can become the fifth team to score at least 30 points in each of their first five games to start a season. Three of the previous four teams to accomplish the feat reached the Super Bowl.

MAGNIFICENT MAHOMES: Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes has 14 TD passes and no interceptions. Peyton Manning holds the record to start a season with 20 TDs and no picks.

ADAM'S MARK: Vikings receiver Adam Thielen has at least 100 yards receiving yards in the first four games. Only two players have done it in the first five: Charley Hennigan (1961) and Bob Boyd (1954). □



In this April 16, 2018 file photo, Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Robert Woods talks with reporters after off-season training at the NFL football team's practice facility in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Associated Press

part of that team two years ago, understand how easy it is to be on the other side of it, and you don't ever want to go back there. You understand the work that needs to be put in to stay where you're at."

Receiver Robert Woods said it's "easy" to ignore the attention the Rams (4-0) are getting.

"It's just buzz," he said. "It's just noise. We've been on both sides. We've been not talked about, and now we're being talked about, but it's really just focus. We know how it goes. We had a great year last year and fell short, and I think this year the team is just focused. No outside distractions. Don't blink. Just focus on one goal."

Los Angeles was revived last season by coach Sean McVay, going 11-5 and winning the NFC West before losing its playoff opener. This season's team appeared to be even stronger on paper — and through four games, that's exactly what it has been.

The Rams lead the NFL with

468.5 yards per game of offense, increasing their total every week. Only five teams have allowed fewer points than the Rams, and their special teams have thrived despite losing two of their four Pro Bowl selections to injury. The rest of the football world can get excited about the Rams, but McVay reflexively downplays any idea that they're a Super Bowl favorite.

"I have no doubt that we have the right kind of guys

in our locker room that know it's about earning it every single day," McVay said. "They are confident, but like we've said over and over, there's a humility that exists."

Along with the respect they've garnered, the Rams' 15-5 record over the past 20 regular-season games has turned them into a target for opponents, who realize they're facing one of the NFL's best. The power shift in the NFC West could be cemented

this weekend if the Rams can win in Seattle for the second straight season. The Seahawks had won eight division titles in 13 years before Los Angeles shoved past them last season, but the Rams only spoke of the Seahawks with immense respect Wednesday.

"Being hunted, I don't think that bothers us," Brockers said. "Because we've been underdogs for so long, so our mentality isn't even that we're that good. We've won some games, but we know we can get better."

Attention has even darker aspects for professional athletes: Woods' house was burglarized last Thursday while he was playing against the Minnesota Vikings. Police arrested four suspects Tuesday in connection with that crime and a series of planned heists at celebrities' homes. "It's an unfortunate event, but I'm happy they caught them," said Woods, a native of the Los Angeles suburbs. "I'm happy nobody got hurt. I guess it's LA territory." □

Champ Crawford challenging Benavidez to back up his words

By ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — World champion welterweight Terence "Bud" Crawford said he's eager to make unbeaten challenger Jose Benavidez Jr. eat his words when they meet in the ring at CHI Health Center on Oct. 13.

A heated confrontation between Benavidez and Crawford in February was a major topic during a teleconference to promote the fight Thursday. Crawford got riled when Benavidez approached him at a boxing event in Corpus Christi, Texas, and accused Crawford of ducking him out of

fear.

"That comes with the territory when you have people who want your spot," Crawford told reporters. "They want any opportunity to prove their worthiness, to make a name for themselves. That's how I took it. He's trying to piggyback off my name to make himself bigger."

So why grant Benavidez a fight?

"Oh, why not? Why not?" Crawford said. "Talk is cheap. We're in the same division, same promoter, it's an interesting fight. He's always saying I'm fighting smaller guys. It's the chance to see what he's made of."

Crawford (33-0, 24 knockouts) is a three-division world champion who holds the WBO title at 147 pounds. He won the belt by stopping defending WBO champion Jeff Horn in the ninth round in Las Vegas in June.

Benavidez (27-0, 18 KOs), a former WBA interim super lightweight champion, was shot multiple times in an August 2016 incident in his hometown of Phoenix. Benavidez returned in February to stop Matthew Strode in the eighth round in Corpus Christi. The exchange with Crawford came the day before at the weigh-in.

Benavidez knocked out Frank Rojas in the first round in his previous fight, which was on the Crawford-Horn undercard. "When Terence Crawford gets in the ring, it's like Alabama in football. He's that dominant," Top Rank president Todd duBoef said. "He's going to have his hands full with a guy who will not back down." Crawford said no when asked if Benavidez, who was not on the teleconference, has any boxing qualities he admires. At that, duBoef said: "Terence, you'd say he has a good mouth, right?" Crawford: "Yeah, that's about it." □



In this Aug. 19, 2017, file photo, Terence "Bud" Crawford poses with his four title belts after winning by knockout against Julius Indongo in the third round of a junior welterweight world title unification bout in Lincoln, Neb.

Associated Press

IOC threatens to drop boxing from Olympics over election

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee has reiterated its threat to drop boxing from the Olympics, expressing "extreme concern" with how the sport is run after a businessman from Uzbekistan who has been accused by U.S. authorities of having ties to organized crime was announced to be running unopposed for president of the amateur boxing association.

AIBA's document of "approved candidates" lists Gafur Rakhimov as the only choice ahead of next month's presidential elections in Moscow. It wasn't immediately clear why a rival candidate, the former Olympic medalist Serik Konakbayev, didn't make the list. Rakhimov was described by the U.S. Treasury Department last year as "one of Uzbekistan's leading criminals and an important person involved in the heroin trade." The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control froze Rakhimov's assets in American jurisdiction and prohibited Americans from "conducting financial or other transactions" with him.

Following the announcement that Rakhimov would run unopposed, the IOC said its board "expressed its ongoing extreme concern

with the grave situation" at AIBA. "The IOC reiterates its clear position that if the governance issues are not properly addressed to the satisfaction of the IOC at the forthcoming AIBA Congress, the existence of boxing on the Olympic program and even the recognition of AIBA as an International Federation recognized by the IOC are under threat." Since February, the IOC has warned boxing could be cut from the 2020 Olympics. The sport has been on the program at every Olympics since 1920 despite regular controversies over judging and allegations of fixed bouts.

Rakhimov has been serving as interim president of AIBA after the long-serving C.K. Wu resigned last year following internal disputes and allegations of grave financial problems at the governing body, which oversees amateur boxing, Olympic events and holds some of its own pro competitions. In a sign of ongoing power struggles, AIBA said Tuesday that its upcoming congress would vote on whether to ban Wu and another official, Ho Kim, for life, citing what executive director Tom Virgets called "the gross negligence and financial mismanagement of the previous leadership." □

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Meet the farmers of the future: Robots

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

SAN CARLOS, Calif. (AP) — Brandon Alexander would like to introduce you to Angus, the farmer of the future. He's heavyset, weighing in at nearly 1,000 pounds, not to mention a bit slow. But he's strong enough to hoist 800-pound pallets of maturing vegetables and can move them from place to place on his own.

Sure, Angus is a robot. But don't hold that against him, even if he looks more like a large tanning bed than C-3PO.

To Alexander, Angus and other robots are key to a new wave of local agriculture that aims to raise lettuce, basil and other produce in metropolitan areas while conserving water and sidestepping the high costs of human labor. It's a big challenge, and some earlier efforts have flopped. Even Google's "moonshot" laboratory, known as X, couldn't figure out how to make the economics work. After raising \$6 million and tinkering with autonomous robots for two years, Alexander's startup Iron Ox says it's ready to start delivering crops of its robotically grown vegetables to people's salad bowls. "And they are going to be the best salads you ever tasted," says the 33-year-old Alexander, a one-time Oklahoma farmboy turned Google engineer turned startup CEO.



In this Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018, photo a robotic arm lifts plants being grown at Iron Ox, a robotic indoor farm, in San Carlos, Calif.

Iron Ox planted its first robot farm in an 8,000-square-foot warehouse in San Carlos, California, a suburb located 25 miles south of San Francisco. Although no deals have been struck yet, Alexander says Iron Ox has been talking to San Francisco Bay area restaurants interested in buying its leafy vegetables and expects to begin selling to supermarkets next year.

The San Carlos warehouse is only a proving ground for Iron Ox's long-term goals. It plans to set up robot farms in greenhouses that will rely mostly on natural sunlight instead of high-powered indoor lighting that sucks up expensive electricity. Initial-

ly, though, the company will sell its produce at a loss in order to remain competitive.

During the next few years, Iron Ox wants to open robot farms near metropolitan areas across the U.S. to serve up fresher produce to restaurants and supermarkets. Most of the vegetables and fruit consumed in the U.S. is grown in California, Arizona, Mexico and other nations. That means many people in U.S. cities are eating lettuce that's nearly a week old by the time it's delivered.

There are bigger stakes as well. The world's population is expected to swell to 10 billion by 2050 from about

7.5 billion now, making it important to find ways to feed more people without further environmental impact, according to a report from the World Resources Institute.

Iron Ox, Alexander reasons, can be part of the solution if its system can make the leap from its small, laboratory-like setting to much larger greenhouses.

The startup relies on a hydroponic system that conserves water and automation in place of humans who seem increasingly less interested in U.S. farming jobs that pay an average of \$13.32 per hour, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nearly half

of U.S. farmworkers planting and picking crops aren't in the U.S. legally, based on a survey by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The heavy lifting on Iron Ox's indoor farm is done by Angus, which rolls about the indoor farm on omnidirectional wheels. Its main job is to shuttle maturing produce to another, as-yet unnamed robot, which transfers plants from smaller growing pods to larger ones, using a mechanical arm whose joints are lubricated with "food-safe" grease.

It's a tedious process to gently pick up each of the roughly 250 plants on each pallet and transfer them to their bigger pods, but the robot doesn't seem to mind the work. Iron Ox still relies on people to clip its vegetables when they are ready for harvest, but Alexander says it is working on another robot that will eventually handle that job too.

Alexander formerly worked on robotics at Google X, but worked on drones, not indoor farms. While there, he met Jon Binney, Iron Ox's co-founder and chief technology officer. The two men became friends and began to brainstorm about ways they might be able to use their engineering skills for the greater good.

"If we can feed people using robots, what could be more impactful than that?" Alexander says. □



In this June 22, 2017, file photo, a man uses a smartphone in Tokyo.

Associated Press

New Zealand fines travelers who won't unlock secure devices

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Visitors to New Zealand can be fined 5,000 New Zealand dollars (\$3,243) for refusing to provide passwords to unlock electronic devices and allow customs officials to examine them under a new law that a civil liberties group on Thursday condemned as a grave invasion of privacy. The law came into effect on Oct. 1 as part of an update of 22-year-old customs legislation. It also gives customs

officials authority to copy data found on searched devices. "The traveling public is unlikely to notice much difference at the border," the New Zealand Customs Service said in a statement last week.

But the New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties said the law gives customs officials the power to force travelers to unlock their smartphones without justification, and without legal options for travelers to challenge an

order to enter a password. "Modern smartphones contain a large amount of highly sensitive private information including emails, letters, medical records, personal photos, and very personal photos," council spokesman Thomas Beagle said in a statement. Beagle questioned whether the intrusion would catch criminals, who would prefer to pay the fine than expose evidence that could lead to prison. □

Rising interest rates send stocks tumbling; tech plunges

By MARLEY JAY

NEW YORK (AP) — Global stocks are falling Thursday as interest rates in the U.S. continue to rise. The S&P 500 index is on track for its biggest drop in more than three months as internet and technology companies fall, and the Nasdaq is on track for its worst loss in six months. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note is rising further after hitting a seven-year high a day ago. Strong reports on job gains and the service industry have sent bond prices tumbling over the last two days as traders bet the U.S. economy will keep growing. Government bonds are stable investments that look most appealing when economic growth is shaky. But the big drop in bond prices is sending interest rates sharply higher, a development that worries investors because it can eventually slow economic growth by making borrowing more expensive for consumers and businesses.

Microsoft, Facebook and Google's parent company Alphabet are all down about 3 percent in afternoon trading while Apple and Amazon are down about 2 percent each. The drop ends three months of relative calm on the stock market as investors were heartened by the state of the economy and were growing less concerned about trade tensions between the U.S., China and other countries. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at a record high Wednesday.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index skidded 34 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,891 as of 1:45 p.m. Eastern time. It's on track for its biggest loss since June 25. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 309 points, or 1.2 percent, to 26,519. The Nasdaq composite fell 171 points, or 2.1 percent, to 7,854. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 24 points, or 1.5 percent, to 1,647.

YIELDS SURGE: Bond prices fell again. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed to 3.19 percent



In this Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2018, file photo Tommy Kalikas, right, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

from 3.16 percent. The 10-year yield is at its highest level since May 2011 following encouraging signs on hiring by private companies and growth for services companies.

That data suggests the economy should keep growing at a solid pace. That translates to bigger profits for U.S. companies and continued increases in interest rates by the Federal Reserve, which raises rates to keep inflation in check. But as interest rates continue to rise, it becomes more expensive for consumers and businesses to borrow money, and growth gradually slows.

The S&P 500 rose as much as 16 points Wednesday but weakened at the end of trading and finished with a gain of just 2 points.

THE QUOTE: Sameer Samana, strategist for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute, said that after months of positive economic data,

traders in the bond market are selling because they've decided yields are too low for them to get a good return on their investments.

"Economic data for months has been strengthening," he said. "The bond market has completely ignored it until recently."

Samana said investors aren't shying away from the stock market, because they're buying shares of companies that have been left out of the market's recent gains. Bank stocks are flat this year, while the S&P 500 index of industrial companies is up 4 percent and energy companies have risen about 7 percent. The S&P 500 itself is up 8 percent.

BIG TURNAROUND: Stocks that have led the market this year took sharp losses. Apple fell 1.8 percent to \$227.96 and Microsoft lost 3 percent to \$111.72. Alphabet, Google's parent company, lost 3.4 percent

to \$1,170.01 and Facebook sank 2.6 percent to \$158.25. Banks, which rallied Wednesday, kept rising. Higher yields mean they make bigger profits on mortgages and other types of loans. Bank of America added 1 percent to \$30.30 and Wells Fargo rose 1 percent to \$53.18.

OVERSEAS: France's CAC 40 sank 1.5 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 tumbled 1.2 percent. The DAX in Germany lost 0.4 percent as trading resumed after a national holiday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index sank 1.7 percent and Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.6 percent while the Kospi in South Korea sank 1.5 percent.

Shares sank in India as the rupee continued to weaken and investors worried about the country's trade deficit thanks to surging costs for oil imports. The Sensex index fell 2.2 percent.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 2.9 percent to \$74.23 per barrel in New York. U.S. crude hit four-year highs this week. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 2.3 percent to \$84.34 per barrel in London.

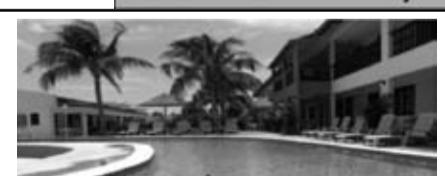
BOOK SALE?: Barnes & Noble climbed 21.2 percent to \$6.62 after the book-seller said it will review offers from potential buyers, including one from founder and chairman Leonard Riggio, the company's biggest shareholder. Even after Thursday's gain, Barnes & Noble stock is slightly lower in 2018 and has lost almost two-thirds of its value since July 2015.

METALS: Gold fell 0.1 percent to \$1,201.60 an ounce. Silver lost 0.5 percent to \$14.59 an ounce. Copper dropped 2 percent to \$2.78 a pound.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 113.76 yen from 114.34. The euro slipped to \$1.1508 from \$1.1517. □

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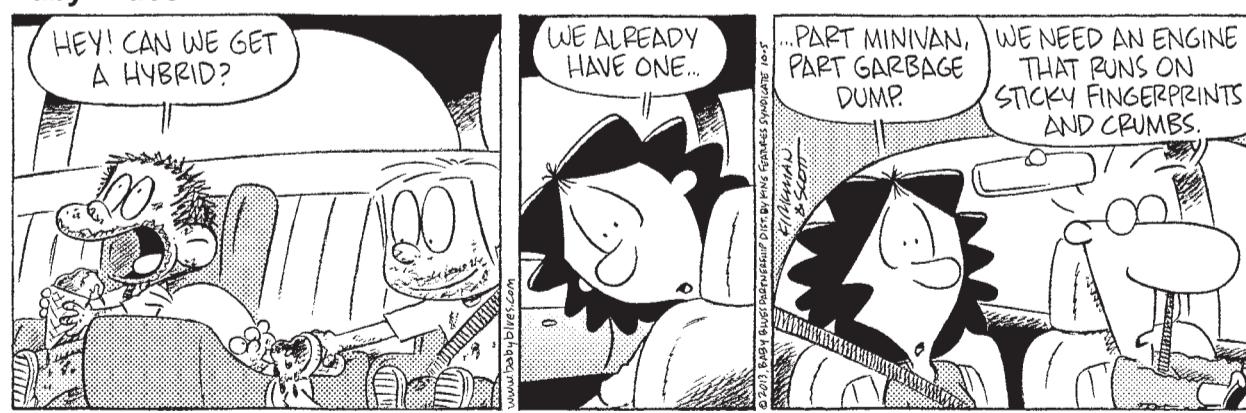
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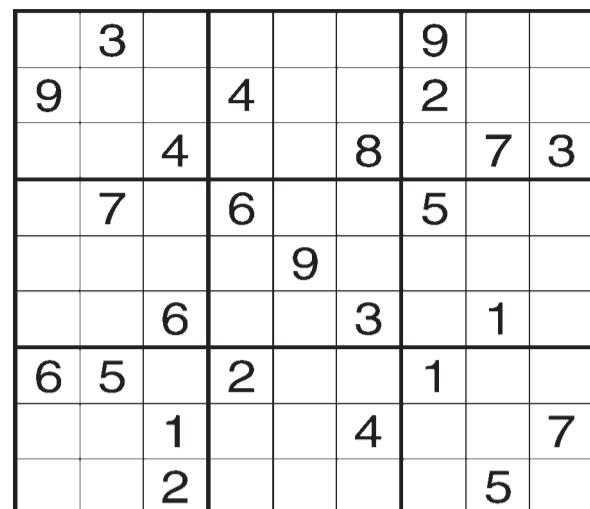
Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★

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10/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	8	7	5	3	9	1	6	4			
1	5	9	8	6	4	2	7	3			
6	3	4	1	7	2	5	8	9			
5	9	6	2	8	3	7	4	1			
7	1	3	6	4	5	9	2	8			
4	2	8	9	1	7	6	3	5			
3	6	2	4	5	1	8	9	7			
8	4	1	7	9	6	3	5	2			
9	7	5	3	2	8	4	1	6			

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	8	7	5	3	9	1	6	4			
1	5	9	8	6	4	2	7	3			
6	3	4	1	7	2	5	8	9			
5	9	6	2	8	3	7	4	1			
7	1	3	6	4	5	9	2	8			
4	2	8	9	1	7	6	3	5			
3	6	2	4	5	1	8	9	7			
8	4	1	7	9	6	3	5	2			
9	7	5	3	2	8	4	1	6			

ACROSS

1 Kennel noises
5 Vane direction
9 Highly self-satisfied
13 Reveals
15 Athletic shoe brand
16 au lait; coffee with milk
17 Sadistic
18 Race consisting of 3 activities
20 Moines
21 "Miss"; Southern school
23 Jack or Velveeta
24 Narrow candle
26 Ho-; dull
27 1 of 13 on the U.S. flag
29 Not roundabout
32 Yes-man
33 MRIs and others
35 "Olympus Fallen", Morgan Freeman film
37 Picnic spoilers
38 Fire bell's noise
39 First, second or third
40 "See ya!"
41 Merchandise
42 Monica, CA
43 One who's hooked
45 Puts on, as a play
46 Peeve
47 Silly as a ...
48 Large antelope
51 Tool with a sharp point
52 Needless fuss
55 Mushroom
58 Receded
60 Classic board game
61 in Love with Amy
62 Dieter's lunch, perhaps
63 Steerer's place
64 Feed bag morsels
65 Ruby & maroon

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/5/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	D	O	T	H	E	R	M	A	S	H
O	V	E	R	C	H	I	L	E	I	C	K
M	I	L	E	L	A	R	K	S	S	H	I
D	I	S	H	O	N	E	S	T	H	Y	D
P	A	C	K	A	T	A	P	U	A	M	A
U	N	C	O	R	C	A	T	A	P	U	T
R	O	U	N	D	B	O	X	E	R	S	W
B	I	R	D	O	I	L	E	N	U	D	E
A	S	S	A	N	D	E	S	B	R	E	L
N	E	E	D	L	E	S	S	E	R	P	O
E	E	D	L	E	S	S	S	E	R	P	O
N	E	D	L	E	S	S	S	E	R	P	O

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10/5/18

39 Pasture cries
41 Little misses
42 Shoulder wraps
43 Erratic; fluctuating
44 Crown
45 Plant
47 Storm winds
48 Mosquito bite
49 Burrowing animal

50 Name for a Beatle
53 Pushing up daisies
54 Likelihood
56 Stop ... dime
57 Current calendar reaction
59 Forbid entry to pg.

Mormon church backs deal to allow medical marijuana in Utah

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Mormon church joined lawmakers, the governor and advocates to back a deal Thursday that would legalize medical marijuana in conservative Utah after months of fierce debate. The compromise comes as people prepare to vote in November on an insurgent medical marijuana ballot initiative that held its ground despite opposition from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Gov. Gary Herbert said he'll call lawmakers into a special session after the midterm election to pass the compromise into law regardless of how the initiative fares. If it passes, it will be revised under the terms of the deal. If it fails, the Legislature would consider a law under the new framework.

The agreement in such a conservative state underscores the nation's changing attitude toward marijuana. Medical use now is legal in more than 30 states and also is on the November ballot in Missouri. So-called recreational marijuana goes before voters in Michigan and North Dakota. If passed, it will be a first for a Midwestern state. The Utah-based faith had opposed the ballot proposal over fears it could lead to more broad use, but ranking global leader



In this June 21, 2018, file photo, a laboratory manager holds a cannabis sample in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Jack Gerard said they're "thrilled" to be a part of the effort to "alleviate human pain and suffering." Though it still must go to a vote, the deal has the key backing of both the church and leaders of the

Republican-dominated Legislature, who said the regulations in the hard-won agreement have their seal of approval. Unlike the ballot initiative, the compromise won't allow people to grow their own marijuana if they live too far from a dispensary. It also doesn't allow certain types of edible marijuana that could appeal to children, like cookies and brownies.

"I will do everything in my power to ensure this compromise passes in the special session," said Utah Senate president Wayne Niederhauser.

Medical marijuana advocates are backing the deal to avoid wrangling and uncertainty that could continue if the ballot initiative passes.

"There will be medical cannabis here in our day in Utah," said advocate DJ Schanz. The two sides agreed to scale back media campaigns supporting and opposing the ballot measure known as Proposition 2.

Not all medical-marijuana advocates were convinced: Christine Stenquist with the group Truce said she remains skeptical about the deal and urged continued support for the ballot proposal.

Smoking marijuana would not be allowed under the ballot proposal. It instead allows edible forms, lotions or electronic cigarettes. □

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CRUISES



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Japanese spacecraft drops observation device onto asteroid

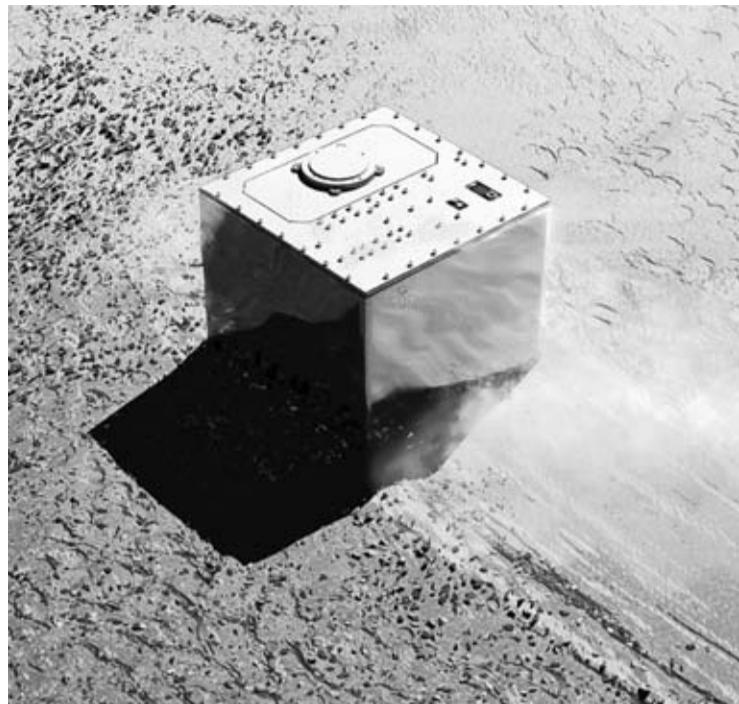
By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A German-French observation device safely landed on an asteroid on Wednesday after a Japanese spacecraft released it as part of a research effort that could find clues about the origin of the solar system, Japanese space officials said.

The Japan Space Exploration Agency said the Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout, or MASCOT, was released from the unmanned spacecraft Hayabusa2 and successfully landed on the asteroid Ryugu.

The spacecraft went as close as about 50 meters (160 feet) to the asteroid's surface to release the box-shaped lander. Hayabusa2 has been stationed near the asteroid since June after traveling 280 million kilometers (170 million miles) from Earth.



This computer graphic image provided by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) shows the Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout, or MASCOT, lander on the asteroid Ryugu.

Associated Press

About an hour after the separation, the space agency, known as JAXA, said it had received signals from MASCOT, an indication of its safe landing.

JAXA's Hayabusa project manager, Yuichi Tsuda,

confirmed the landing at a news conference. JAXA collaborated with the German Aerospace Center and France's Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales in the MASCOT project.

The lander's deployment follows the successful landing last month of two MINERVA-II1 observation rovers that have transmitted a series of images showing the asteroid's rocky surface. Hayabusa2 dropped MASCOT on the opposite hemisphere from the rovers so they don't interfere with each other's activity, JAXA said.

It took more than three years for the Hayabusa2 spacecraft to reach the asteroid's vicinity. Hayabusa2 will later attempt to briefly land on the asteroid itself to collect samples to send back to researchers on Earth.

The two successful landings

of the probes provide a boost of confidence ahead of the upcoming landing of Hayabusa2, though that will be a greater challenge, Tsuda said.

The lithium battery-run MASCOT can operate 16 hours — while the asteroid revolves twice — to collect and transmit data, including temperature and mineral varieties. After its observation activity at the initial landing spot, it will bounce to a second location to collect another set of samples there.

According to JAXA, MASCOT is carrying a wide-angle camera on its side to capture images of its surroundings. A spectroscopic microscope on the bottom is designed to examine minerals on the asteroid's surface. MASCOT will also measure the magnetic force and temperature on the asteroid. □

Japan to revise northern Pacific sei whaling program

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese fisheries officials said Thursday they will revise one of the country's two main research whaling programs after an international organization said selling meat from killed sei whales violates a convention protecting endangered species, in a possible setback for Japan's ambition to resume commercial whaling.

The standing committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES, said this week that Japan's use of sei whale meat from its Northern Pacific research program for commercial purposes violates the convention.



In this March 12, 2010, file photo, Japan's whaling ship Shonan Maru 2 arrives back from the Antarctic with Sea Shepherd's anti-whaling activist Peter Bethune of New Zealand on board at Harumi pier in Tokyo shortly before Japan's coast guard arrested Bethune for illegally boarding the Japanese ship in February.

Associated Press

CITES bans commercial trade of endangered species, including sei whales —

one of the largest whales which grows to about 15 meters (50 feet) in length and weighs about 20 tons. A Fisheries Agency official said Thursday that the CITES decision is not binding, but Japan will work out a revision and submit it to CITES by Feb. 1.

A revision could mean a major change to Japan's research whaling in the Northern Pacific, including a possible halt to commer-

cial sales of sei whale meat. Japan has killed up to 100 sei whales annually since 2000. Under Japan's Northern Pacific research whaling program for 2017-2028, allowed by the International Whaling Commission, it plans to catch up to 134 sei whales annually.

The CITES decision does not affect Japan's other major research program in the Antarctic, where it hunts minke whales — up

to 333 each year. Japan had to scale down its Antarctic whaling after a 2014 International Court of Justice ruling that its research whaling wasn't scientific enough.

Commercial whaling was suspended by the IWC in the mid-1980s because of dwindling stocks. Japan has since switched to what it calls research whaling, which is allowed by the IWC as an exception, and says stocks have recovered enough that commercial hunts should resume. Its proposal to do so, however, was defeated at an IWC meeting in Brazil on Sept. 14.

Japan has hunted whales for centuries, but has reduced its catch in recent years amid international protests and declining demand for whale meat at home.

Still, Japan annually consumes about 5,000 tons of whale meat from its research hunts, officials said. Opponents say Japan's research whaling is a cover for commercial whaling because the whale meat is sold for food. □

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Denzel Washington looks back fondly on some crucial advice

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Denzel Washington joined the Boys & Girls Club of America when he was 5. He's never really left.

The 63-year old Oscar-winning actor says the lessons he learned from the youth organization became the foundation of his success. One valuable lesson came after a track and field event where Washington found he wasn't as fast as one other child.

"I was real nervous about that, and I was thrown off by it," Washington recalled. A counselor noticed that something was wrong and came over. "I remember him telling me that, 'You know, yes, that other kid is fast, but he doesn't know how to run. He doesn't know how to run the turns or pass the baton.' And he said: 'Your natural ability will only take you so far.'" That advice paid off when learning his craft as an actor. He started performing as a junior in college and had instant success. But he remembered that his natural ability would only take him so far. "So I decided to continue my studies and



In this Sept. 26, 2018 file photo, actor Denzel Washington, right, and Malachi Haynes appear at an interview with Fox News Anchor Chris Wallace at the National Press Club in Washington.

Associated Press

go on to work on my master's, and that was directly related to an experience I had as a child in the Boys & Girls Club," Washington said.

Washington was in the nation's capital for the annual Boys & Girls Club National Youth of the Year award ceremony. This year's Southwest Youth of the Year recipient was Malachi

Haynes, who accepted the honor before an audience that included members of Congress and Boys & Girls Clubs of America supporters, including Washington, who is the national spokesman. Haynes, seated next to Washington, called it surreal. "Probably 30 emotions all at once," he said of the honor.

When Washington was

young, he spent so much time at the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon, New York, that "literally, they had to send me home." He remembers at one club talent show he played a member of the Beatles. "I think I was John, if not Paul. I think I was John. I definitely wasn't Ringo. Not that I'm knocking Ringo, but I was I wasn't playing

the drums, I was playing guitar," he said.

While his children were not as active with the Boys and Girls Club of America, Washington applied the lessons he learned to their upbringing.

"The things I learned in the club I applied to them. All my children played sports like I did in the club, and that was my way because that's what I learned. I was like, 'OK, I'll get them involved in sports' and my oldest boy made it all the way to the NFL." (Washington's son, John, played for the St. Louis Rams and recently starred in "BlacKKKlansman.")

The organization began in 1860, offering a positive alternative to children than roaming the street. The clubs try to foster character development, citizenship and living a healthy lifestyle.

Washington also recalls another element.

"Tough, tough love and keeping them busy. We didn't realize it but we were going from one thing to another. And they kept you engaged, involved and busy. But you just thought you were just having fun." □

'A Star Is Born' soundtrack is a five-star marvel

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

Various Artists, "A Star Is Born — Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" (Interscope Records)

The soundtrack to "A Star Is Born" is no slim thing, thank goodness. It contains a whopping 34 tracks, mostly due to the inclusion of brief snatches of songs, dialogues or interludes. It will put fans back into the film in a visceral way. Haven't seen it yet? With this album, you may not need to.

The latest film incarnation of the doomed love affair between two singer-songwriters — one on the way up, the other down — has plenty of buzz thanks to its stars, Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. But the soundtrack is proof that



This cover image released by Interscope Records shows the original motion picture soundtrack for "A Star is Born," featuring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga.

Associated Press

it deserves it. From bluesy rock to country to bubble gum pop, the 19 original songs are varied and addictive. We knew Lady Gaga was capable of great things, but Cooper's musicality is a wonder. We often make fun of actors who long to be rock stars, but Cooper shows real skill in front of the microphone. The soundtrack is chronological and, of course, includes Gaga's performance of Edith Piaf's classic "La Vie En Rose," which is her star turn moment when Cooper's character discovers her in a cabaret. And it naturally has the huge tearful finale, "I'll Never Love Again" — actually it has an extended cut of that as well, if you have enough hankies at home.

But a film about the power of music needs to have lots of it and the soundtrack includes virtually every note heard onscreen, including blistering guitar instrumentals ("Out of Time"), duets (including the bluesy "Alibi," the country "Music to My Eyes" and the soft rocker "I Don't Know What Love Is"), and even dialogue about music (the minute-long "Twelve Notes" speech delivered by Sam Elliott).

In many ways, the film's trajectory can be boiled down to its first breakout hit, "Shallow," co-written by Mark Ronson. It starts in a folky vein with Cooper alone, then becomes a duet with Cooper and Gaga before ending with her taking it over, belting out the lyrics in a glam-rock style. □

'Venom,' with Tom Hardy, is a manic muddle

By JAKE COYLE

"Venom," starring Tom Hardy as a TV investigative journalist whose body is invaded by an alien organism, is a destabilizing mix of intentional and unintentional comedy that for better and worse returns the superhero movie to its natural state: camp.

What makes Ruben Fleischer's first installment in the Sony universe of Marvel characters such an oddity is that it seems perpetually unsure of just how far it wants to teeter into ridiculousness. It's an incoherent mess of tones, acting styles and visual effects. And yet it's kind of a hoot.

Having that feeling of "What the hell is this thing?" is an underrated quality in movies — good or bad ones — and it's even more captivating when the movie, itself, seems to have thrown up its hands in exasperation. Having often been critical of the frequently formulaic filmmaking of Marvel movies, it would be disingenuous of me to not appreciate the more freewheeling and slapdash



This image released by Sony Pictures shows a scene from "Venom."

jumble of "Venom." It's not every movie that tries, however awkwardly, to marry ghoul body horror with a goofball buddy comedy that happens to take place in the same body. These are the sorts of things we did in the '80s.

Hardy plays Eddie Brock, a motorcycling San Francisco reporter who loses his lawyer fiancée (Michelle Williams, lending warmth

and depth to every scene) when he steals a tip from her work email. His expose of a powerful industrialist with maniacal aspirations for saving humanity, Carlton Drake (Riz Ahmed, who had more benevolent plans for humanity's rescue in "The Sisters Brothers"), goes up in flames, and he's sent packing. But a whistleblower in Drake's lab contacts Brock

and brings him in to reveal what's going on: Drake has obtained an extraterrestrial parasite — a gummy, writhing black blob — and he's conducting human trials with it. The potential scientific benefit of this is a little iffy, but in practice, it means one person after another is led into a chamber where the organism takes over their body and quickly kills it.

Associated Press

Just as in the "Spider-Man" comics, from which Venom originates, the movie is predicated on what can go wrong in a lab. (Topher Grace played Venom in 2007's "Spider-Man 3.") Brock proves a surprisingly good host for the alien creature which turns out to be much more sentient than your average blob. From inside Brock, it can not only form a slimy black exoskeleton and in a flash spawn spindly appendages. It can also in a deep growl tell Brock "Hungry!" "Let's eat his brains!" or, when in a less violent mood, dispatch relationship advice. Brock and Venom turn out to be quite compatible and one of the odder Dr. Jekyll and Hyde routines you're likely to see. Venom plays puppeteer with Brock, who at first is mystified at what's happening to him. That Venom is such an icky, cartoonish figure — when engulfing Brock, it has fangs, a long, serpentine tongue and mask-like white eyes — makes their genuinely humorous banter all the stranger. □

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TOM HARDY | MICHELLE WILLIAMS

VENOM (PG-13)

MON-THU 5:20 | 7:50
FRI 4:35 | 6:20 | 9:30 | 10:20
SAT 2:50 | 5:20 | 7:50 | 10:20
SUN 2:50 | 5:20 | 7:40

CXC

MON-THU 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

KEVIN HART | TIFFANY HADDISH

NIGHT SCHOOL (PG-13)

MON-THU 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
SUN 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30

TFI

MON-THU 5:35 | 8:00
FRI 5:35 | 8:00 | 10:25
SAT 3:10 | 5:35 | 8:00 | 10:25
SUN 3:10 | 5:35 | 8:00 | 10:25

BOYD HOLBROOK | TREVANTE RHOADES

THE PREDATOR

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (R)
MON-FRI 4:35 | 7:15 | 9:35
SAT-SUN 2:35 | 4:35 | 7:15 | 9:35

DEMÍAN BICHIR | TAISSA FARMIGA

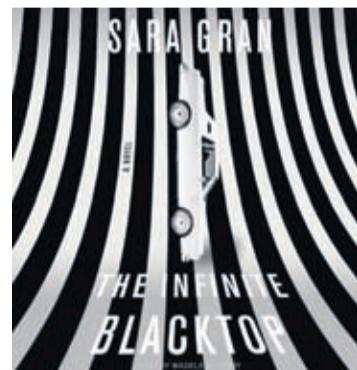
THE NUN

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New novel featuring Claire DeWitt not a routine crime solver



This cover image released by Atria shows "The Infinite Blacktop," by Sara Gran.

Associated Press

By KENDAL WEAVER
Associated Press

"The Infinite Blacktop" (Atria), by Sara Gran. Claire DeWitt is a private detective not always easy to like.

She steals cars. She steals purses. She pops stolen pills. Without warning, she delivers quick, brutal hits

and kicks bad folks when they're already down. But this cocky, unhappy, clever and driven heroine of Sara Gran's mystery series will eventually solve a crime no one else could — and berate herself for detective work still unfinished.

In the end, you want her on your side.

"The Infinite Blacktop," Gran's third Claire DeWitt detective novel, opens in Oakland, California, in 2011 with a fast-paced round of crime-scene fright after an attempt on Claire's life. It then moves back and forth among three different times, places and events: 1985-86 Brooklyn, when Claire is a teenager and a friend goes missing; 1999 Los Angeles, when an art world death opens a door for her career; and 2011

Oakland, when Claire is in the crosshairs of a killer. A comic book heroine, the fictional teen detective Cynthia Silverton, oddly becomes a key figure in the multilevel mystery that Claire is out to solve. Adding to this element, the various crimes being probed are given names as if from a Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys series, such as "The Clue of the Golden Butterfly" or "The Case of the Stolen Seashell."

Claire is devoted to a French detective, Jacques Silette, who wrote a book, "Detection." For the teenage Claire, the book is a Rosetta Stone for solving mysteries.

As the adult Claire sorts through deadly puzzles, Silette is a key figure and resource. □

Violinist, professor, pastor among 25 'genius grant' winners

By HERBERT G. McCANN

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A violinist who organizes concerts for the homeless, a professor whose research is being used to increase access to civil justice by poor communities and an activist pastor are among this year's MacArthur fellows and recipients of so-called genius grants.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation on Thursday named 25 people, including academics, activists, artists, scholars and scientists, who will receive \$625,000 over five years to use as they please.

The Chicago-based foundation has awarded the fellowships each year since 1981 to people who have shown outstanding talent to help further their creative, professional or intellectual pursuits. Potential fellows are brought to the foundation's attention by an anonymous pool of nominators. Those selected are sworn to secrecy until their names are announced.

Los Angeles Philharmonic first violinist Vijay Gupta said he was "pretty overwhelmed" when he told he was named a MacArthur fellow. He received the honor for being the



This Sept. 18, 2018 photo shows Robert Vijay Gupta, the Mark Houston Dalzell and James Dao-Dalzell First Chair Violin with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Founder and Artistic Director of Street Symphony posing with his violin in his house in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

co-founder and artistic director of Street Symphony, which has performed at homeless shelters, jails and halfway houses for about eight years.

"They have reminded me why I became a musician," Gupta said of the homeless. "Artists have a role in telling the truth about what is happening in our world today."

Gupta, 31, said he got the idea for Street Symphony while giving lessons to Na-

thaniel Ayers, a Juilliard-trained musician whose mental illness led to homelessness and who was the inspiration for the movie "The Soloist."

"I grew up around mental illness," Gupta said, noting that he has experienced it. "Our goal is to find more artists aching to have not only their artistry, but also have their human story told as well."

Gupta, who won a spot in the LA Philharmonic at age

19, said he has no idea how he will spend the money, but that it gives him the opportunity to reflect.

"I've been a performer my entire life, playing the violin at 4 years and on the stage at 7," he said. "I've never had a chance to sit and reflect on what my life will be like. This gives me some space to breathe, plan and look ahead."

Another fellow is Rebecca Sandefur, an associate professor of sociology and law

at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She was told of the award by the MacArthur Fellows Program's managing director, Cecilia Conrad, who happened to be on campus and had asked to meet about an unrelated matter. "It was an extraordinary experience and a complete shock," Sandefur said. "It was not something you would expect."

Sandefur's research is promoting a new approach to increasing access to the justice system by poor communities. She created the first national mapping of civil legal aid providers, revealing which states had the resources to provide such aid and which didn't. She also determined that cost is only one of many factors that inhibit the use of lawyers by the poor. Among the others are an aversion to lawyers, a fear of and pessimism about the fairness of the legal system, and a lack of understanding about what constitutes a legal issue. Sandefur, 47, contends that while there has been a lot of attention paid to the problems of the criminal justice system, there hasn't been enough attention paid to the civil side of the law. □

Jimmy Kimmel to open comedy club in Las Vegas in 2019

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jimmy Kimmel will see a dream come true when he opens a comedy club next spring in Las Vegas where he will make regular appearances and give up-and-coming comics a chance to hone their talents.

The late-night talk show host joined casino giant Caesars Entertainment in announcing plans Wednesday for the newest comedy club in Sin City.

Kimmel has spent a year planning everything from ceiling height to food for the venue along an outdoor promenade on the Las Vegas Strip across from Caesars Palace casino-resort.



In this Feb. 26, 2017 file photo, host Jimmy Kimmel appears at the Oscars in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"I grew up in Las Vegas, and I've always wanted to have a presence of some kind whether it be a restaurant or some kind of a pawn shop or something

there," he told The Associated Press. "We've been hard at work."

The two-story, 300-seat venue will host big names and new talent chosen by Kim-

mel and his team. Las Vegas is the home of a number of comedy clubs, including an outpost of New York's famed Comedy Cellar. Caesars' 4,300-seat Colosseum theater has hosted Jerry Seinfeld, Sebastian Maniscalco, Steve Martin and Martin Short, Jim Gaffigan and Jeff Dunham.

Kimmel wants to distinguish his club by capturing the spirit of classic Vegas through shows that go way into the night.

"The Rat Pack would play until four in the morning," he said. "Vegas is the kind of city where if the sun doesn't come up by the time you go to bed, I think you've failed."

The host of "Jimmy Kim-

mel Live!" has not picked the first people to take the stage but said he wants to make it easy for comics to travel from Los Angeles to work at his club.

He said he sees other comedy clubs in Vegas as "opportunities" for comedians, not competition.

"The best comedy cities — L.A., New York, Chicago — have multiple comedy clubs and that's part of why they have a great comedy scene," he said.

Kimmel doesn't foresee any difficulties convincing the best comics to work in Sin City. "It's become the premier food city in the United States. So, I don't see why it couldn't become the premier comedy city as well," he said. □

Poll: Young Americans say online bullying a serious problem

By MATT O'BRIEN
BARBARA ORTUTAY

Associated Press

WETHERSFIELD, Conn. (AP)

— Teens and young adults say cyberbullying is a serious problem for people their age, but most don't think they'll be the ones targeted for digital abuse. That's according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV, which also finds that about half of both young people and their parents view social media as having a mostly negative effect on the younger generation.

Fifteen-year-old Matty Nev Luby said she's learned to navigate Instagram and other social media apps by brushing aside the anonymous bullies.

"When I see a really mean comment about my appearance or something I did, if someone said that to me online, it means nothing to me, but if I pictured someone I know saying that, I would be really upset," Luby said.

Roughly three-quarters of 15- to 26-year-olds say that online bullying and abuse is a serious problem for their peers. Seven percent of young people say they have already been a victim of cyberbullying, with young women (11 percent) more likely to say they were bullied than young men (3 percent).

"People will make fun of their outfits or weight, their choices," said Luby, who lives in a suburb of Hartford, Connecticut, and has been dabbling in social media since age 12.

Her popularity on the lip-syncing app Musical.ly, which merged this summer into the Chinese video-sharing app TikTok, helped win her some modeling contracts. Now she's mostly focused on Instagram, where she follows makeup artists and fashion trends.

Her mother, KellyLynn Mahoney, said she's impressed by her daughter's ability to keep bullies at bay.

"Her responses blow my mind," Mahoney said. "I'd be fists up at her age. She's



In this Feb. 28, 2018 photo, Matty Nev Luby, standing in front of a ring light, has her hair brushed by her mother Kerryllynn Mahoney in Wethersfield, Conn.

Associated Press

like, 'I'm sorry you feel that way. You should probably think in a more positive way and then we'd have more peace on earth.'

But she's also vigilant about monitoring her daughter's accounts, blocking any followers who seem creepy or fake and trying to steer her away from fixating on pages that degrade women.

"I have to constantly keep her grounded," Mahoney said. "I'm thankful she's aware that this is not real. It's our jobs as parents to reel them back in."

The poll shows majorities of both young people and

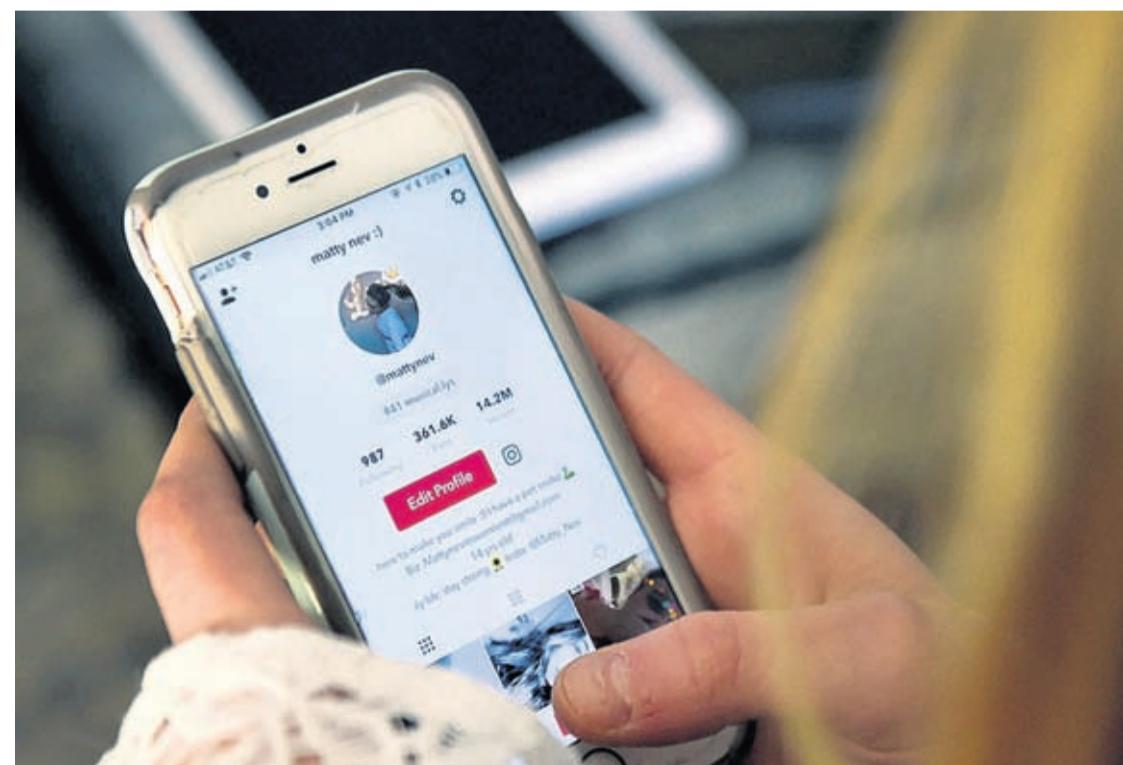
their parents think parents have a responsibility to help prevent online harassment. The long-documented problem with online bullying is that it is relentless. It doesn't let up when kids get home from school, safely in their homes, or even when they move away from their tormentors. Still, like Luby, many young people tend to be more resilient to trolling from strangers online. "If they don't know who it is, it doesn't seem to bother them as much," said Justin Patchin, a criminal justice professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

and co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center. "What concerns them is when it's some kid at school."

Patchin said that among adults, the people perpetuating harassment tend to be strangers, not people they know.

Leslie Hernandez, 39, said she thinks the impact of social media on people her age has been mostly positive.

"Adults tend to stay away from the drama that is part of adolescence," said Hernandez, who lives in Tucson, Arizona. "It allows you



In this Feb. 28, 2018 photo, Matty Nev Luby holds her phone and logs into the lip-sync smartphone app Musical.ly, in Wethersfield, Conn.

Associated Press

to connect with people from your past."

According to the poll, she is in the minority. Among parents of 15- to 26-year-olds, about a quarter, 23 percent, say social media has had a mostly positive effect on people their age, while 31 percent say it's been negative; 45 percent say it's neither positive nor negative. Among people aged 15 to 26, 47 percent say it's had a negative effect on their generation, and 26 percent say it's been a good thing, while another 26 percent think it's neither. About half of parents, 53 percent, agree social media has had a mostly negative effect on their child's generation. No matter their age, the overwhelming majority say they see people using discriminatory language or posting such images. Seventy-eight percent of people aged 15 to 26 say they see such posts either sometimes or often, compared with 65 percent of their parents. Only 4 percent of young people and 10 percent of their parents say they never see discriminatory language or images. Companies like Facebook and Twitter have been trying for years to clamp down on abuse and harassment, with varying degrees of success. Both parents (72 percent) and young people (67 percent) think the companies play a major role in addressing these problems.

Roughly two-thirds of parents also attribute responsibility to schools (68 percent), law enforcement (66 percent) and other users who witness the behavior (61 percent).

Currently, young internet users report using YouTube (48 percent), Facebook (47 percent), Instagram (40 percent) and Snapchat (39 percent) several times a day or more. Fewer use Twitter, Reddit, WhatsApp, Tumblr or LinkedIn as regularly. Parents who use the internet are most likely to report using Facebook (53 percent) several times a day or more, with few being heavy users of other social media sites. □